

Oxfordshire Guardian

Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington

Thursday, February 1 - Wednesday, February 7, 2018

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Free

Weekly
leisure
guide for
in and
around
Oxford



Council seals
deal for Castle
Quay

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Helen & Douglas House
hospice care for children and young adults

Adult care hit as
house to close

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Woman given
medal for life
with diabetes

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Dibley writer's backing to save golf course from development

'Loss would shatter many lives'

By Samantha McGregor

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a golf club say "lives would be shattered" if the site was lost to developers.

Members of North Oxford Golf Club have launched a campaign to stop their 110-year-old course being designated for housing.

Cherwell District Council identified the site as suitable for housing in its local plan.

But campaigners, calling themselves GreenwayOxon, say the club, in Banbury Road, Oxford, is an "important social and recreational centre for many people whose lives would be shattered if it were lost".

They argue the golf club site is a green lung and offers people of all ages the chance to enjoy regular exercise and fresh air, and is beneficial for their health and wellbeing.

Group spokesman Chris Pack said: "We know houses have to be built but the sheer number in this relatively small area around Kidlington and north Oxford will affect so many people.

"The legal framework for planning in the UK - the National Planning Policy Framework - is clear about the obligations on councils for protecting the green belt for recreation and

health, as well as limiting urban sprawl.

"It is therefore shocking that the Draft Cherwell Local Plan Partial Review proposes building a housing estate on North Oxford golf course.

"For more than 110 years golfers of all ages have enjoyed regular exercise and fresh air playing this beautiful mature course."

GreenwayOxon says an alternative golf course site put forward by the council was inappropriate.

Member and golfer Paul Mayhew-Archer, 65, who co-wrote television show *The Vicar of Dibley*, suffers from Parkinson's Disease.

He said: "I know only too well how important exercise is in coping with a serious medical condition.

"On a visit to North Oxford Golf Club to do a piece for *The One Show* I met a terminally-ill man who left me in no doubt that golf and the camaraderie of his fellow players was keeping him going. The club was for him, as for many others, his extended family.

"I very much hope the council will drop its proposal to turn the course into a housing estate."

Cherwell is looking to build 4,400 homes around Kidlington, Gosford, Yarnton and Begbroke and the golf course is one of the sites earmarked.

Peak performance

PHIL Marshall battled extreme weather conditions to raise more than £10,000 for a charity which supports his wife.

Find out about his ultramarathon along The Pennine Way on pages 8&9.



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18 men found not guilty over sex offence charges

By George Welch

ELEVEN men charged with a catalogue of sex offences against teenage girls have been found not guilty after their cases were dropped.

A total of 18 men were arrested in police raids in Oxford and Banbury in March and April last year as part of Operation Nautical, an inquiry into child sexual exploitation.

After being charged with a number of sexual offences, seven men were acquitted last month.

This week police confirmed investigations into the other 11 men had halted after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped its cases.

The CPS said there was insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction while TVP stressed the dismissal of the case was not the result of a failure to disclose evidence.

Senior investigating officer, Detective Chief Inspector Mick Saunders, said: "Prosecutions are quite properly kept under review and Thames Valley Police accepts the decision of the CPS not to proceed with the second linked trial and to offer no evidence in respect of the defendants in that case.

"We will review the investigation, as we would in all such cases, to identify whether there is any learning for future investigations of child sexual exploitation."

Shabir Dogar, 23, of Bertie Place, Oxford; Shabaz Khan, 24, of Cosin Close, Oxford; Joseph Suraina, 23, of Marlborough Close, Oxford; Shohab Dogar, 23, of Tawney Street, Oxford; Yasin Hamid, 20, of Moorbank, Oxford; Usman Idris, 23, of Northway, Headington and Ajay Kumar-Lal, 22, of Cleveland Drive, Oxford; were all

found not guilty in December following a trial at Oxford Crown Court.

The remaining 11 men were due to face trial at the same court before the CPS dropped its cases.

This meant Qamran Hafiz, 25, of Danesmoor, Banbury; Atiq Hussain, 24, of Avenue Road, Banbury; Tafail Mohammed, 24, of East Close, Banbury; Marcelo Suarez, 21, of Hillside Close, Banbury; Leon Cole, 20, of Alma Road, Banbury; Abdul Saif, 32, of Deacon Way, Banbury; Nasser Younis, 38, of Sandford Green, Banbury; Ahsan Raza, 20, of Churchill Road, Birmingham and Atique Akhtar, 24, Aamir Arfi, 24, and Waqas Hussain, 24, all three of no fixed abode, were then found not guilty.

Not guilty verdicts were recorded for all defendants on all counts. The offences related to three female victims between 2008 and 2015.



Daniel Davey has just started a six-and-a-half year sentence

Investigation launched after prisoner dies

A PAEDOPHILE who abused a five-year-old boy has died in his cell just six weeks into his sentence at HMP Bullingdon.

Daniel Davey, 22, was serving a six-and-a-half-year jail sentence at the Bicester prison for sexually abusing his young victim while working as a babysitter over an 18-month period between 2015 and 2016.

Davey was sentenced on December 1 last year at Swindon Crown Court but was found dead in his cell earlier this month.

He denied three counts of sexual assault of a child but was found guilty of two charges, including a multi-incident count alleging it happened on at least five occasions.

A Prison Service spokesperson said: "HMP Bullingdon prisoner Daniel Davey (DOB 04/09/1996) died in custody on Friday 12 January 2018.

"As with all deaths in custody there will be an independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman."

Warning over Brexit affect on NHS staffing

PRO-EU campaigners have been spreading their message in Oxford.

Oxford for Europe and Europe Movement, a coalition of groups and individuals campaigning to challenge the Brexit process and negotiations, protested at Carfax Tower on Saturday.

The campaign groups fear cancer patients are at risk and could see their treatment hit if the UK quits Euratom as part of Brexit. Former Oxford city councillor David Williams spoke to shoppers about the impact Brexit could have on NHS staffing.



Apprentice engineers her future

AN apprentice at Culham's science centre has won a prestigious national bursary.

Katriya Sabin, 19, will now be able to take advantage of a variety of mentoring and work placement opportunities with one of the world's largest engineering institutions.

The second year electrical engineering apprentice stood out from 75 contenders to win £1,000 in sponsorship from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Katriya's bursary will help her with travel and accommodation costs during her apprenticeship at the science centre near Abingdon.

Currently she commutes from Leamington every day, but she hopes to move somewhere closer



to the Culham site.

Katriya said: "I'm incredibly pleased to receive the bursary. I chose to go through the apprenticeship route because I felt trapped in the academic route. Experience in the workplace is, in my opinion, just as valuable as a degree."

As well as helping the drive towards fusion energy at Culham, she has her eye on some of the world's other big hi-tech challenges: "I would like to broaden my horizons in the engineering world, keep an open mind on the routes I could go down."

Snowflake not just a product of cold wintry weather

MANSPLAINING, snowflake and hangry are among more than 1,000 words added to the latest Oxford English Dictionary.

Mansplaining is when a man explains something condescendingly to a woman.

Hangry is a blend of hungry

and angry while snowflake is a derogatory term used to describe overly sensitive people. Visit tinyurl.com/y7mvsjft for all words.

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Comet comes to spread recycling message to pupils

CHEEKY happy Comet the polar bear proved the main attraction as the ice hockey mascot launched a unique project for primary school kids.

The Oxford City Stars mascot put in a guest appearance at West Kidlington Primary School last week to help inspire the youngsters to live more economically and healthily.

Hundreds of pupils will throw themselves into extracurricular, recycling-based workshops and activities, including decorating a digger with recycled cans, filling a skip with recyclable goods and arts and crafts sessions.

Joanne Simpson, assistant principal of the 400-pupil school, said the partnership would "enrich the lives of the children".

The push to improve children's understanding of all things recycling

and sport well-being comes as the Oxford Road school linked up with recycling company Sheehan Group and Oxford City Stars.

Staff from the Sheehan Group will visit the school to speak to pupils about recycling benefits while players from the Stars will visit to deliver talks on sport and well-being.

The level of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting has improved in both Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.

Cherwell's rate improved from 55 per cent in 2015/16 to 57 per cent in 2016/17, while West Oxfordshire's record improved from 61 to 63 per cent in the same time period.

The county council has launched a consultation on how to reduce wastage rates across Oxfordshire.

Visit www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk before February 18.



Pupils from West Kidlington Primary School with Comet and Richard Sheehan, director Sheehan Group; teacher Emma Orton, Mike Whillock, Oxford City Stars player and Greig Box Turnbull, Oxford City Stars director

Council has Quay to regeneration

By Samantha McGregor

A COUNCIL is now the proud owner of a shopping centre after a multi-million pound deal was finalised.

Cherwell District Council now owns 100 per cent of the Castle Quay Shopping Centre in Banbury.

The council stepped in after its former owner, Aberdeen Invest, pulled out of a major regeneration and extension of the shopping centre.

Now the council say the move signifies "the first step on the journey to regenerate the town centre".

This will include the planned Castle

Quay 2 development on land next to the shopping centre, which includes building a multi-screen cinema, supermarket, restaurants and hotel.

Cllr Tony Illott, Cherwell's lead member for finance said: "Our vision is to regenerate the whole of the centre of Banbury, including Canalside, Tramway and Bolton Road.

"We have already worked to bring existing brownfield sites back into use at Crown House and Town Centre House.

"Now we want to go one step further by delivering a quality shopping experience in Castle Quay and a

thriving night-time economy through Castle Quay 2.

"This is a significant day in the history of Cherwell District Council as we embark on the first step of our journey to regenerate the centre of Banbury.

"By investing in the shopping centre, we are also investing in the future of our town which extends further than the parameters of the precinct to incorporate the scenic canal and the historic old town."

Work will now start to improve the shopping centre and encourage new retailers to take on units.

It has reviewed the size of the units and is readdressing how the precinct fronts onto the canal.

Work will coincide with the council's £60m plans to bring forth the delivery of Castle Quay 2, which is expected to start this summer and open in 2020.

Among the retailers already signed up is supermarket Lidl, Premier Inn hotel, restaurants Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Nando's, Zizzis and Chiquitos and a seven-screen cinema operated by The Light.

The project will be funded through loans which will be repaid from rental income from the shopping centre.

InBrief

No rise in precept

BANBURY Town Council has set its 2018/2019 budget and retained its precept at £122.12 for Band D properties.

It will be the ninth year running the council tax has remained the same.

Projects for the next year include improvements to Bridge Street Park, a makeover of the sensory garden in the Oxford Road, a revamp of the Skate Area in Spiceball Park.

Plans also include improvements to St Mary's Plaza, footpaths in People's Park will be resurfaced and there will be a new football pitch on the former cattle market site.

Hairdryers stolen

POLICE have released a CCTV image of a man who could have 'vital information' about a burglary in Witney.

Evolve Hair Studio, based at Langdale Court, had GHD straighteners and hairdryers stolen when it was broken into shortly after 11pm on January 14.

Police said two offenders forced entry into the shop through the front door.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 43180014199 if you have information or know the man pictured.



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Get your name on team shirts

A POPULAR sports and social club is looking for a new sponsor to fill its blank shirts.

Adderbury Bowls Club is seeking a firm or individual to support the club in a five-year deal.

It needs a £1,000 donation and in return will embroider the sponsor's name on team shirts and also put up a 4ft x 4ft advertising board at the side of the green for five years and get free membership and prominence on its website.

Club president Mick Jelfs, pictured, said: "This is a good opportunity for a company to get its name in front of quality men and women aged 20 to 80."

"It is surprising how many people visit the club every year for sport and social occasions. I'm sure this is a good deal – the equivalent of £200 a year for five years' advertising."

Members play in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, as well as national and county competitions.

The club has around 50 bowling members and well over 100 social members. For more information go to adderburybowlsclub.co.uk



John Gilley with memorabilia from 1955 and left in the car he and friend Henry Burke made the trip in

Driver's memories of Monte – 63 years on

CROWDS will be gathering in Banbury today to see the world-famous Monte Carlo rally stop off in the town.

It will be the first time the classic car rally has visited Banbury since 1962 – more than 50 years ago.

The event takes place between 10am and 3.30pm, in Bridge Street and Market Place.

Former Monte Carlo driver John Gilley, 85, from Brackley, has been reminiscing about the time he took part in the world-famous event in

1955. He said then it was an endurance event with no overnight stops. Nowadays drivers have several days to complete the 1,500-mile trip, which finishes in Monaco on Sunday.

Mr Gilley will be meeting this year's drivers at Banbury Town Hall, where they will stop for lunch before being waved off by the crowds at one-minute intervals from 1.30pm in Market Place.

Mr Gilley, who was one of the youngest drivers in the race when

he competed, said: "It all went by in a flash."

"We were treated rather well because we were young, but a lot of the older chaps told us to keep out of the way."

"It's going to be great to get back into the fun of it when the rally returns to Banbury and I'm looking forward to meeting this year's drivers."

His co-driver was Henry Burke and they made the trip in an MG Magnet.

InBrief

Help fix potholes

COUNTY councillor Liam Walker is calling on residents to help the council fix west Oxfordshire's broken roads and pavements.

Oxfordshire County Council spends around £1.6million on mending each year to fill in around 25,800 potholes.

The Hanborough and Minster Lovell ward member is encouraging more people to use the website or app FixMyStreet to record problems such as potholes, broken streetlamps and crumbling pavements that need fixing.

The Conservative said: "Since being elected last May potholes have certainly been the biggest issue that people contact me about and I completely understand why."

"The problem is when I ask if they have reported the pothole I reckon 9/10 say no they haven't."

Visit fixmystreet.com

The cost of a name

CHERWELL District Council will begin recouping costs of naming and numbering new streets from today by charging developers.

Councillor Colin Clarke, lead member for planning, said: "Our officers are spending more and more time processing requests for new street names. By law we cannot make a profit from the service but we must ensure council costs are met."

Requests to change house names will also carry a £25 charge.

Bus service set to drive rural transport scheme

By Owen Hughes

A WEST Oxfordshire community bus service has set the wheels in motion at Westminster for similar transport projects.

Witney MP Robert Courts invited the Minister for Roads and Local Transport, Jesse Norman MP, to see the thriving community project to help inform similar schemes across the country.

Our Bus Bartons provides links for rural villages to the places where the commercial bus network does not reach.

During the visit, both MPs met the Our Bus volunteers, alongside campaigners, to discuss how the scheme has been able to grow.

Mr Norman said: "Our Bus Bartons shows just how important community transport is to rural communities across the UK."

"It provides a vital service linking local people with shows, friends, families and jobs."

Our Bus is fully financially independent with commercial sponsorship deals and has recently acquired its second bus.

The service began with just one driver and one bus in 2016 and recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Mr Courts first alerted the Local Transport Minister to Our Bus when praising the community



Roads and local transport minister Jesse Norman MP met Our Bus Bartons volunteers in Witney

project in the House of Commons. Since his election as Witney MP in October 2016, Mr Courts has donated his councillor's allowance to the project.

Mr Courts said: "I am proud that west Oxfordshire is leading the way in providing these vital links for our rural village, and praise the work of all involved."

"It was important to show the minister all that we have achieved, and I look forward to working with him to see how more communities around the country can create their own schemes and how Our Bus Bartons can continue to grow."

Witney has just welcomed

its first routes run by West Oxfordshire Community Transport Association, backed by Witney Town Council.

A fourth bus, the 210 service, will travel between Witney and Chipping Norton from February 12.

The previous public transport routes connecting the Wychwoods were cancelled by Stagecoach after Oxfordshire County Council stopped subsidising them.

Mr Courts is also hosting a panel event with Great Western Railway and Network Rail on February 8 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Charlbury Memorial Hall.

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News

Overtaken lorry causes road closure

AN overturned lorry containing recycling waste partially blocked an exit on the M40 on Monday.

Police, fire crew and ambulance services arrived at the scene to find the HGV toppled on its side at the Northbound exit slip at Ardley Junction 10 of the motorway.

One lane was blocked on the slip road as emergency services tried to keep the busy morning traffic flowing after the incident at around 10.15am.

The lorry contained recycling waste made up of paper and plastic.

South Central Ambulance Service said one man had been taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital with potential neck and head injuries.



The lane closure was in place for most of the day after the lorry overturned on the M40 Northbound exit slip

The lane closure remained in place for most of the day while Thames Valley Police carried out recovery and clean-up.

The incident occurred shortly around the time that the M40 was closed in both directions between Banbury and Bicester as police

dealt with a 'fear for welfare incident'.

Air ambulance services attended while a man was taken to the John Radcliffe with potentially serious injuries before the road was re-opened shortly after 11am.

Petition calls for end to arresting beggars

By Owen Hughes

AN Oxford MP is supporting a petition to end a 200-year-old law that gives police the power to arrest people begging in public.

Oxford Student Union's petition to end the Vagrancy Act 1824 received more than 12,500 signatures, surpassing the 10,000 needed for a response from the government.

Recent government statistics revealed Oxford was 70 per cent above the national average number of rough sleepers.

Layla Moran, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said: "The treatment of people homeless and sleeping rough across the UK and in Oxford is getting worse and worse, with more of an emphasis seemingly put on punitive measures and not nearly enough on support."

"In my role on the Public Accounts Committee, we have found that not nearly enough is being done to tackle homelessness, but more than this, the money that is being spent isn't being used effectively either."

"We need more money for homeless support services, but more than that, money that will be spent fixing the core root of the problem and looks at why people are homeless in the first place."

"This also needs to be backed up with the building of vastly more affordable homes."

More than 3,000 homeless people were brought before courts in violation of the act in 2014 and 2015.

Under the 19th century law, police have the power to arrest any people found 'begging' or sleeping rough in public.

Exploring the wonder of the 'wonder bridge'

OXFORD'S "wonder bridge" will have an evening dedicated to exploring the contribution it has made to the city's culture at the Museum of Oxford next month.

Museum staff and historian Peter Smith will lead the talk using period photos and short wartime newsreel film clips to explain the history and use of the Bailey Bridge during the Second World War and afterwards.

Allied commander Dwight Eisenhower described the construction as one of the top three engineering inventions of the war.

The press called the structure a "wonder bridge" and credited it with making a huge contribution towards ending the Second World War.

The Bailey Bridge at Port Meadow was constructed by Royal Engineers in just a few hours in September 1947 to replace a crumbled footbridge.

Councillor Dee Sinclair, executive board member for culture and communities, said: "The Bailey Bridge is such a



The Bailey Bridge in Port Meadow was built in 1947

remarkable example of great engineering which made a huge contribution to Oxford's history.

"This talk will be a great insight into Oxford during World War Two, and how that is still reflected today."

Proceeds from the evening will go towards the Museum of Oxford redevelopment.

The project will involve the Old Museum, which was closed in 2011, transformed to create a new, purpose-built space with the capacity to increase the number of exhibits from 286 to 750.

Tickets for the talk on February 8 at 5.30pm can be purchased from the Museum Gift Shop or online at eventbrite.co.uk.

Hospice to stop adult care amid drop in funding

Helen & Douglas House to cut staff by 60

By Eva Astreinidou

AN Oxford hospice says it needs support now more than ever after announcing it will close one of its two care hubs to ensure it can survive.

The drastic steps announced by Helen & Douglas House come after a shortfall in funding and a 'highly competitive fundraising environment'.

From August, the charity will no longer be providing a service for 18-35-year-old patients currently cared for at Douglas House.

It is anticipated this will result in the region of 60 redundancies across the organisation in 2018.

The charity says that it has been working to reduce operating costs for some time, but that the savings made were not sufficient.

Chair of the trustees, Elizabeth Drew said: "We are adopting a prudent approach to reduce the service in line with what we can afford in order to keep the hospice open."

"We are confident that this

places the organisation on a firm foundation from where it can evolve to meet the emerging needs of our young patients. We are grateful for all the support we get from the local community and now, more than ever, we need you."

The charity said it will continue to support the young adult patients and their families currently in its care and help them access alternative care where available in the community.

It will continue to provide specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people aged 0-18 years old both at Helen House and at home.

Chief executive officer Clare Periton will continue in her post and lead the organisation through the changes. It is anticipated she will reduce her executive team by half.

A spokesperson said the charity currently spends £5.2million in order to run the hospice and for at least the past seven years has not received sufficient funds to cover the costs.



Drew Fermor from Didcot Railway Centre explains how levers operate a steam locomotive and inset, four-year-old Henry from Abingdon enjoyed winding the reversing lever on a steam locomotive

Levers pull in youngsters at station

ASPIRING engineers got a real hands-on experience at Didcot Railway Centre over the weekend.

Around 30 children aged from three to six pulled levers and got involved in science and engineering at a little engineers workshop on Sunday.

The centre hosted the family

activity with the theme of levers to encourage children to explore.

The day comes after an inaugural event in November, where the theme was signals.

The centre hosts a variety of family-friendly activities, including days out with Thomas and visits from well-known rail engines.



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News

Women's rights to be celebrated

A FORMER Lord Mayor of Oxford and anti-nuclear weapons campaigner will be commemorated at a public event celebrating the centenary of her birth.

Olive Gibbs, born February 17, 1918, twice held the position of Lord Mayor of Oxford, first in 1974 and again in 1981.

The Labour politician chaired the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and was awarded the first honorary degree from Oxford Brookes University in 1986. She was also Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

The free event on February 6 at the Assembly Room is part of Oxford International Women's Festival marking the 100th anniversary of votes for women in the UK.

Flags in suffragette colours – purple, white and green – will be flown across Oxford as well as the council.

Labour councillor Susan Brown, leader of Oxford City Council, said: "Women from Oxford and across the country fought for our rights to participate fully in society.

"This commemoration gives us a



Olive Gibbs, former Lord Mayor and Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council, was born the year women won the right to vote

chance to thank them and to hear the amazing stories of their bravery and determination.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about local women this year and helping to celebrate them."

The Representation of the People Act gave women over the age of 30 who owned property and all men over the age of 21 the right to vote.



Phil Marshall took on the challenge to raise funds to help his wife Sarah

By Samantha McGregor

A RUNNER has completed a "gruelling" ultramarathon and raised more than £10,000 for a charity supporting his wife.

Last month Phil Marshall, 35, ran 268-miles along The Pennine Way, from Edale to Kirk Yetholm, battling extreme winds, waist-deep snow, 24 hours of torrential rain and sleep deprivation.

During the seven-day race Phil had to run 200 miles with bandaged feet due to blisters and suffered hallucinations due to sleep deprivation, and even walked into a snow-covered pond which caused his gloves and shoes to freeze.

Every mile he ran raised money for charity Pulmonary Hypertension Association UK, which funds research into the condition from which his wife Sarah suffers.

Sarah, 37, from Banbury, was

Wife very proud



diagnosed with life-limiting Pulmonary Hypertension, PH, four years ago, aged 33.

PH progressively damages the heart and lungs and Sarah is now awaiting a double lung transplant. There is currently no cure.

Phil, who took up running as a way to deal with the stress and pressure of living with a terminally ill wife,

said: "I knew the race would be tough, but nothing could prepare me for the trials thrown at us.

"It was brutal. Every day was a real challenge to keep going.

"I have never been so exhausted; there were so many times that I just wanted to lie in the snow and go to sleep.

"But I had to keep going, slowly

Helping train puppy to support disability

AN Oxfordshire dog sitting organisation has joined forces with the Dogs for Good charity for 2018.

The partnership will raise funds to train a puppy that will support adults and children who are living with a disability.

Barking Mad Oxfordshire will host coffee mornings and dog walks to raise funds for the charity.

The organisation said it was "so proud" to work with Dogs for Good to help "enrich and improve" people's lives.



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of ultra husband



Phil Marshall braved extreme weather conditions as he took on the 268-miles along The Pennine Way from Derbyshire to the Scottish borders

ever seen in this country. And it was relentless. But I'm so proud that I did it, and managed to raise such an amazing amount of money for the PHA.

"They are such a small charity but with such an important goal. Hopefully this money will help fund research into a cure."

Former Fritwell School teacher Sarah said: "I'm so proud of Phil for completing this epic challenge."

"It was so difficult to hear the one I love crying with fatigue or illness, and hearing their tales of how hard it was... but he kept going."

"He was determined to finish and determined to raise as much money as he could for the PHA."

"I'm a very, very proud wife."

putting one foot in front of the other.

"I daren't think about how much further I had left to go each day, as it was such a terrifying thought as I was really weak and tired."

"So instead I set myself mini challenges, like getting to the next fence, or over the next hill. Thinking only of the immediate miles."

"The weather was the worst I've

Carillion contract ended

OXFORDSHIRE County Council has forked out £10.65million to pay for completed work and to formally end its contract with Carillion five months early.

The council has officially ended its contract with the facilities management firm from today following its collapse on January 15.

The pay off brings forward the already agreed end of the contract set for the end of June.

Carillion provided services on behalf of the council including school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings; property services and building work such as school extensions. The council, now

responsible for these services, said had it not struck the exit deal early and paid up it would be facing complex legal issues to end the contract.

Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, cabinet member for property, cultural and community services, said: "We brought the process forward and legally terminated our contract and will be taking over those services to ensure continuity."

She added: "Carillion's financial problems were not the original reason we wanted to end the contract. But as the scale of the company's problems became apparent we are very glad we ended the contract when we did."

"The reality is that if we had not

ended the contract and settled with the liquidators, we would now be tied up in lengthy negotiations to end our involvement with the company."

"This early exit deal means we can get on with finding better ways to deliver services Carillion provided."

Having signed a 10-year deal with Carillion in 2012, the council said it had spent about £148m with the company.

All contracts and arrangements will be reassessed later this year, the council added.

Sub-contracted staff across the county were paid by administrators PWC until yesterday and were transferred over to the council today.

Wrestler turned filmmaker shares advice

YOUNG filmmakers in Oxford were treated to a masterclass from a Hollywood actor and former WWE superstar last week.

Students at SAE Oxford and partner schools had the curtain pulled back on the movie business as Leroy Kincaide delivered a talk that shed light on how to make a mark in the film industry.

Leroy's passion to become an actor and filmmaker stemmed from his years performing as a professional wrestler with American wrestling giant WWE.

After working as a film extra and creating his own web series, Paranormal GI, Leroy set up his production company Nocturnal

Pictures with producer partner Chloe Chudasama.

More recently Leroy produced the award winning short film, Max Payne Retribution, based on the popular video game franchise.

Leroy said: "Young filmmakers should always be aware that this is a very collaborative industry, no one is better than anyone else as on any film set, we are all in it together."

"It's important to always follow your heart and do what you love doing."

SAE digital film production student Chris Cosby said: "Leroy was very enthusiastic and concise in his inspirational delivery of advice to us all."



Leroy Kincaide spoke to film students at SAE Oxford on Thursday
Picture: Chris Cosby

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Inspiring a workforce fit for the future at Diamond open days

THOUSANDS of aspiring scientists and engineers in Oxfordshire as young as seven will have the opportunity to learn more about the profession at a series of careers events this year.

Diamond Light Source, in Harwell, will host a schedule of events as part of the government's Year of Engineering 2018 campaign to give young people experiences of modern engineering.

The careers and open days will be designed to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics pathways.

Youngsters between the ages of seven and 16, their parents and teachers will have the chance to learn what engineers do in a bid to tackle the industry's skills gap.

The campaign was launched in response to an estimated shortfall of 20,000 engineering graduates a year having a significant impact on productivity and growth.

Stewart Scott, head of Beamline Systems Engineering, said: "As one of the world's leading science facilities we have a responsibility to help encourage the next generation of engineers and sciences, ensuring we have a high-skilled workforce that is fit for the future."

Bookings can be made for open days on March 24, June 9, August 21 and November 10 at www.diamond.ac.uk/Public.html

The Diamond Light Source at Harwell. Picture: Harwell Campus



Help with your mental health

SMALL lifestyle changes can improve mental wellbeing – and health experts, libraries and charity Oxfordshire Mind are joining forces to get the message across.

A series of events across 14 of the county's libraries begins today at County Library.

Each library will host a Tea and Talk Day aimed at connecting people and promoting discussion about mental wellbeing.

Speakers will include county council cabinet member for health and education Hilary Hibbert-Biles, Oxfordshire Mind's trustee Nicholas Welch and an Oxfordshire Mind service user.

The talks will focus on 'the five ways to wellbeing': connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give.

CONNECT
with wellbeing experts and others

Date	Time	Location of Library
1 Feb	2pm	County Library, Oxford
8 Feb	11am	Abingdon
15 Feb	11am	Didcot
22 Feb	11am	Witney
1 March	11am	Barbury
8 March	11am	Bicester
15 March	11am	Cowley
22 March	11am	Kidlington
29 March	11am	Headington
5 April	11am	Summertown
12 April	11am	Thame
19 April	11am	Wantage
26 April	11am	Chipping Norton
3 May	11am	Henley

Exciting new West Way to go ahead

By Eva Astreinidou

PEOPLE in Botley 'will be very relieved' planned redevelopment work can finally start after the completion of a £12.4million deal.

Vale of White Horse District Council has finalised an agreement with developers to revitalise the shopping centre and adjacent land at West Way.

The latest development comes after more than 20 months of delays to begin a £100million redevelopment

of the West Way, which will eventually feature shops, a hotel and student accommodation.

Chris Church, of the Association for Botley Communities and a campaigner for West Way Community Concern, said: "It's fair to say most people in the area will be very relieved that finally development can start."

"The majority of the shops are now empty so if the area is not to end up in dereliction we need quick action."

He added: "With Westgate and other shops opening in the city, we need to

make sure that there is still a market for it."

The council says it agreed to a reduction of around £1.4million to help developers Botley Development Company proceed with the purchase and speed up the process.

The new agreement is for just over £12.4million.

Since the original agreements to sell in 2012, the developer has adapted and changed its plans after extensive consultation with the community.

The updated plans were granted

permission by the council in June 2016.

Vale leader Matthew Barber said: "I'm sure residents of Botley are, like me, delighted to have reached this vital stage. It's been a long road to get to this point, but now we can look forward to a brand new, exciting West Way that will serve Botley and residents in the Vale for years to come."

An application for the revised scheme will be decided by the end of February.

Botley Development Company hopes to start preliminary work on the site as soon as possible.

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News

Fined for illegal killing of piglet

ORGANIC farmers in west Oxfordshire have been fined more than £4,000 for causing "unnecessary suffering" when illegally slaughtering a 10-week-old piglet.

Worton Organic Farm near Cassington was ordered to pay the sum at Oxford Magistrates' Court earlier this week after complaints were made to Trading Standards in May last year.

The court heard the piglet's feet were bound before it was stabbed leading to a prolonged death, causing distress and unnecessary suffering.

Food safety legislation guidelines were not followed by the business who served the meat to customers at its café.

David Blake and Anna Blake, who

own the business, and their employee Jenejo Marques Fidel, pleaded guilty and said the offences were committed out of ignorance of the law.

They were charged with the illegal slaughter of an animal and for failing to keep appropriate veterinary medicine records.

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, cabinet member for trading standards, said the rules ensure "the safety and integrity of our food chain" and "prevent unnecessary suffering".

She added: "The vast majority of livestock keepers maintain very good farming standards and we will not tolerate those who undermine the system."

All three defendants said they would follow the legal requirements in future.

Have your say on heritage sites

OXFORD City Council is looking for new additions to its list of more than 70 heritage sites that make a special contribution to the character of the centuries old city.

The launch of a new consultation period from Monday allows members of the public to comment on buildings, structures, features or places to be included on the Oxford Heritage Asset Register.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, board member for planning and regulatory services, said: "Oxford is rightly famous for its buildings and places, many of which are

recognised and protected already. But just as important are buildings of local significance, places that mean something to us locally but which don't meet the criteria to be listed.

The city council established the register with funding from English Heritage (Historic England), the Oxford Preservation Trust and local communities. Inclusion on the register adds no responsibilities on property owners but can help to influence future planning decisions.

The consultation runs until February 26. To comment go to www.oxford.gov.uk/ohar

Happy ending for neglected stallion

By George Welch

A NEGLECTED stallion who struggled to walk after being left alone in a filthy stable for nearly two years with little food and water has learnt to trust people again.

Stew was rescued from 'appalling' conditions by the RSPCA and was moved on to pastures new at an animal rehoming centre in Burford, where he has completed a 'remarkable turnaround'.

Animal charity Blue Cross said the five-year-old stallion was left to starve and, as a result, was mentally traumatised. He has spent the last three months recuperating in west Oxfordshire.

Describing Stew's condition upon arrival at the Shilton Road centre, rehoming manager Vicki Alford said he "was quite aggressive around food at first" and that his hooves "were in an appalling state".

Stew was castrated which calmed him down and his groom at Blue Cross worked hard to build his trust.

"This took a lot of time," Vicki said. "He was very untrusting of his groom at first and would lay his ears flat and charge at her."

"But once he realised that food would come freely and there was no

fight for it, he began to settle and his groom was gradually able to touch him and then start working with him."

Vicki added: "We have worked with him using food as a reward to make his association with people a positive one."

"He is now happy to be led, will pick up all four feet and can be groomed all over. He is adorable and loves his groom now. It's a remarkable turnaround."

Stew still gets anxious at being left alone but, thanks to his rehabilitation programme, he is now ready to find a home.

Vicki said that Stew "needs someone who is understanding of his past and will work slowly with him to build his confidence".



Stew when he was rescued by the RSPCA

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

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Grants on offer to help boost rural businesses

By George Welch

GRANTS of up to £100,000 are available to community groups and small businesses for projects that support the rural economy.

The £1.55million funding pot comes from Oxfordshire LEADER and contributions are available for capital costs, such as building work, equipment and for projects located in the catchment area, until September.

Last year the LEADER programme awarded environmental charity Sylva Foundation nearly £24,000 to build a new forestry yard at its Wood Centre in Long Wittenham.

The centre is a hub for wood-using businesses with Face North Forestry, a fast-growing company, recently moving into a new yard on site.

Owner Nick Keighley said: "Moving into the yard has allowed me to grow my business and add value to the timber I fell. Being based at the Sylva Wood Centre means there is a ready-made customer base for my products."

Paul Orsi, director for forestry at Sylva Foundation, said the LEADER grant was "vital to take this project forward".

The Oxfordshire LEADER Action



Nick Keighley from Face North Forestry in the new yard

Group (LAG) decide where the LEADER funds are awarded and is made up of representatives from local trusts, organisations and district councils.

It is chaired by south Oxfordshire district councillor Elizabeth Gillespie, who said: "Our group visited the Sylva Wood Centre and were delighted to see how the funds were supporting innovative small wood businesses and impressed at the overriding ethos of the Sylva Wood Foundation."

To qualify projects must create

jobs, increase productivity, develop new markets, increase visitors to the area and/or provide essential rural services.

Oxfordshire LEADER is welcoming expressions of interest for support until September. All funds will be allocated by March 2019. Visit www.oxfordshireleader.org.uk for more information.

If you think your project is eligible contact Sophie, programme manager, on 01235 422245 or email Oxfordshire.leader@southandvale.gov.uk for advice.

InBrief

Digital development

AMBULANCE services in the south have been given a multi-million pound boost to develop "world class" digital services.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Foundation Trust is one of three NHS ambulance trusts to be awarded a share of the £5million investment on Wednesday (January 24) to develop its digital side.

West Midlands and North East NHS Foundation Trusts will join SCAS as the first ambulance services to enrol on the Global Digital Exemplar (GDE) programme.

Over the next two years, SCAS will receive an additional £1.7million from NHS England, which the Trust will match fund, to continue its digital transformation. The extra £5million in funding takes the total investment from NHS England to £10million.

A34 road closure

A STRETCH of the A34 will be closed overnight for two weeks.

From today until February 14, the A34 between Harwell and Milton Park will be closed overnight between 9pm and 6am for resurfacing work.

During these closures a signed diversion will be in place via Newbury and Abingdon Road.

These works could be subject to change dependent on weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Check yellow signage alongside the A34 for confirmed dates and timings.



A happy horse – Stew has learnt to trust people again



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Bouquets of love left on shopping centre benches

BOUQUETS of sweet smelling roses and hand-written poetry could be surprising west Oxfordshire residents this Valentine's Day.

A Witney-based family-owned florist found success with a campaign to launch the business in August last year when bunches of seasonal flowers were left on benches around the Woolgate shopping centre.

Recipients of the mystery gifts were encouraged to post pictures of their discovery on the florist's Facebook page.

The scheme was so successful that Cupid's arrow could be adorned with Witney roses when it strikes again this month.

Melissa Norridge, 27, has 14 years experience in floristry and set up Flower NV with her sister Sophie Varney, 33, last summer.

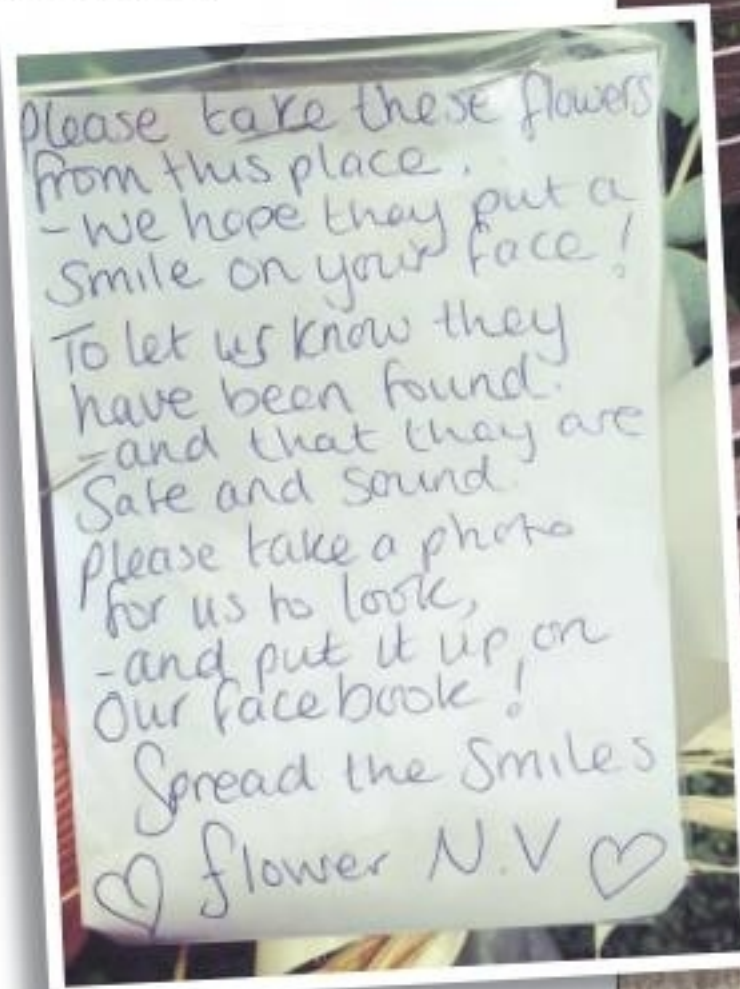
She said: "We left the flowers in three different locations around Witney and they each had a poem attached asking people to take them home and post about it on social media."

"We decided to stop and watch people pick them up, but it didn't take too long - they were gone before we even made it back to the car."

Melissa worked her way up from

a Saturday job at her local flower shop to area manager before starting her own business with Sophie.

Sophie Varney's daughter Amelia poses with one of the bouquets left for a lucky Witney shopper to pick up and below, the poem attached to the flowers



InBrief

City rent scheme

FAMILIES at risk of homelessness in Oxford are benefitting from a city council scheme to guarantee the first three months' rent to landlords.

Landlords participating in the scheme agree to provide tenancies for families who have approached the council because they are at risk of homelessness.

Councillor Mike Rowley, board member for housing, said: "I am delighted that the Rent Guarantee Scheme has met its first year target of 40 tenancies."

Oxford is the least affordable city for housing in the UK with a private tenant on average earnings expected to shell out more than half of their income on rent.

Cllr Rowley added: "The RGS bridges this divide by offering support and incentives to both landlords and tenants."

Interested landlords can visit oxford.gov.uk/rentguarantee.

Colleges are good

EDUCATION group Activate Learning, which runs the City of Oxford College and Banbury and Bicester College, has been rated as good overall.

Following a December inspection the provider was praised for improvements in teaching, learning and assessment, resulting in better student outcomes and progression.

Visit tinyurl.com/y9ofxp3b for the full report.

Brookes has plans for 500 homes on campus

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFORD Brookes University has submitted plans to replace a campus with 500 homes.

The proposals for the Wheatley site include 200 affordable homes, sports facilities, car parking spaces and a children's play park.

The campus seven miles from the city centre would be demolished to make way for the housing.

The university said it would relocate the current teaching and residential facilities by 2022.

Wheatley villagers are divided over the proposals off the A40 London Road.

On the Wheatley village facebook group, Anne Gee commented: "More houses that the young/working class can't afford what's the point? This is not a village anymore."

Evelyn Hillier commented:

"Without additional infrastructure and sewage works improvement this is short-sighted."

"The traffic through Wheatley is horrendous already and this will increase the bottleneck so just plonking up to 500 houses there and walking away can't be allowed."

Claire Lou echoed the sentiment, saying: "I've just moved out of the city. Enjoy the lack of light pollution and it will be so close to my house. I know we need more housing but still slightly heartbroken."

Val Messenger also commented, expressing her concern over the impact the plans could have on public transport provision.

She said: "When Brookes goes it will probably mean half of the public transport will disappear."

Others, such as Mary Tapper, said the plans would be a positive: "I look forward to seeing it happen."

We need houses for people. I do hope some of the housing is genuinely affordable, rather than in name only."

Martin Simmonds added: "We think it is a great idea and the housing is needed for affordable homes in the village and surrounding area."

Sue Holmes, director of estates and facilities management, said: "As announced in 2015, Oxford Brookes is planning to move all activity from the Wheatley Campus by 2021/2022."

"Oxford Brookes is currently pursuing the sale of the site and has submitted an outline planning application for the redevelopment of the site for housing."

The decision date for the application is expected to be on April 20.

To have your say before consultation ends on February 22, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ybxeqxp>.

Crackdown on blue badge abusers across county

ANTI-FRAUD teams hope conmen hear the message 'loud and clear' after 25 blue badge abusers were caught breaking the rules.

The countywide crackdown was carried out by Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council who undertook an on-street operation last month.

The greatest number of badges

were seized in Oxford city centre and at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

More than 650 badges were checked, removing 18 and issuing seven penalty charges to people parked in a disabled bay without a blue badge.

County councillor Judith Heathcoat said: "The blue badge system needs to operate with

integrity. That is the message that should be heard loud and clear."

Oxford city councillor Ed Turner said: "Abuse of a blue badge can have a serious impact on those legitimate users who need a parking space."

Blue badge misuse is a criminal offence and can result in a fine of up to £1,000 and a criminal record.



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News

Does your pet deserve a medal?

THERE are just three days left to nominate your hero pets for the Blue Cross Medal 2018.

Animal lovers are being encouraged to name inspirational pets who could be the next medal-winner before nominations close on Sunday.

In previous years the award has been aimed at working pets including guide and police dogs, therapy pets and pets who have saved lives in dramatic ways.

But this year Blue Cross is opening the medal up to more nominees and hoping to hear about the everyday pet hero who is changing lives in all kinds of ways.

This could include guinea pigs who help give children confidence, cats who're there to listen, dogs who help you get in shape – any pet who helps you in any way big or small.

Last year's winner was a five-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier cross called Romeo.



Last year's winner Romeo

Romeo was nominated by his loving owner as he spends a great deal of time visiting stroke patients and residents in care homes, and regularly donates blood to the Royal Veterinary College saving numerous canine lives.

To nominate a pet and find out more, visit www.bluecross.org.uk/medal

Pictures capture life in refugee camp

PHOTOGRAPHS taken by refugees on disposable cameras will be on show in Oxford.

The pictures depict life in a refugee camp through the eyes of the refugees, while also challenging negative media stereotypes.

The Disposable Perspectives exhibition comes after 15 disposable cameras were given to refugees in the Porte de la Chapelle camp in

Paris at the end of 2016.

The event was the brainchild of Amy Lineham, a medical student who had been volunteering at the camp.

She gave the cameras to the refugees with them fully responsible for the images they took.

The event will be hosted at The Barn, St John's College in St Giles, tomorrow from 7pm to 10pm.



Year 7 pupils discovered the runaway tortoise, inset, in a field at Cheney School

Tallulah's slow bid for freedom

IT wasn't so much a great escape but more a sluggish trudge. Yet, in tortoise terms, it was quite a journey.

Tallulah the tortoise, who broke free from her Oxford garden last July, was found on Wednesday last week – just 322 metres away.

The nine-year-old had lived happily with her owners Danielle Morris, 50, and her daughter Leanna, 29, until, on a sunny midsummer day, she embarked on a death-defying adventure.

After 'scarpering' through a foxhole she plodded through a neighbouring back garden, past the house and through their front garden before carefully crossing busy Gypsy Lane.

She ended up in a field at Cheney

School, just across the road, found by some shell-shocked Year 7 children, six months after she first set off.

It has been calculated she travelled at a speed of less than 0.00005mph.

Fearing their pet reptile had disappeared forever, Danielle and Leanna put up missing posters and appealed for help on social media.

A lot has happened during Tallulah's expedition – snow, a Brexit breakthrough, the budget, copious Donald Trump tweets, hurricanes and a royal engagement.

Tallulah, who was reportedly microchipped, has been reunited with her owners after spending some time with the vets.

Fun and games at second birthday

REVELLERS celebrated an Oxford community centre's second anniversary with a birthday cake and games.

Rose Hill Community Centre, which opened in 2016 after a £4.76million revamp, was celebrated on Tuesday.

Over the past two years the community centre has welcomed more than 173,000 visitors; inducted more than 1,100 gym members; welcomed five tenants, with another joining in the near future; booked an average of 37.5 hours per week of health activities and was awarded the new-build accolade at the 2016 Oxford Preservation Trust Awards.

To mark the special occasion a two-hour party was held for the community, tenants and users in the Bill Buckingham Ballroom.

City councillor Dee Sinclair, board member for culture and communities, described the flagship centre as "a fantastic hub for residents and venue for our tenants supplying a service to the local community".

The project originally began in 2012 after a Rose Hill residents' survey showed that 459 of 587 respondents wanted a new community centre.

The 25-room building off Ashhurst Way was opened by then-Oxford Lord Mayor Rae Humberstone.

Among its facilities is a 30-station gym, meeting and conference facilities, social club, community library, three advice rooms and ball room.

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Woman given medal for 50 years with condition
'Many challenges to living with diabetes'

By Samantha McGregor

AN Oxfordshire woman has been awarded a medal for her "courage and perseverance" dealing with diabetes for more than 50 years.

Julie Robbins, 60, was presented with the Alan Nabarro medal, which is awarded to people who have lived with the condition for five decades.

Julie, from Banbury, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was six.

But by following a healthy diet, exercise and taking good care of herself she has successfully managed her condition.

People who have Type 1 diabetes cannot produce insulin and rely on daily insulin doses – taken either by injections or via an insulin pump.

Julie, who works in Oxford as an administrator, said: "I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 1963 and have been injecting insulin every day since."

"I was six and had been losing weight – to the point that I was the same size as my three-year-old brother so we knew something was wrong."

"It was a shock to the family when the doctors gave us the

Julie Robbins with her medal – managing the condition well is key she believes



news. No one really knew anything much about the condition at the time but we all just got on with it.

"Living with diabetes for 50 years has been hard with many challenges along the way."

She said the treatment had advanced since she was diagnosed, rather than using unreliable urine testing strips, modern blood glucose meters and insulin pumps made managing the condition easier.

Julie said: "It takes perseverance but, I haven't let it define me or stop me from leading a full and healthy life. Managing

the condition well is the key."

Jill Steaton, regional head at Diabetes UK South East, said Julie was an "inspiration".

She said: "Diabetes is a serious and complex condition. Poorly managed it can lead to devastating but avoidable complications such as blindness, amputation and stroke."

"Too many people suffer these complications unnecessarily."

Alan Nabarro waged a lifelong battle against discrimination of people with diabetes and in 1968 he was awarded the OBE for his work with young people in London.



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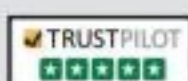
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Cortina restored for hospice funds

By George Welch

A TEAM of mechanics got down and dirty to bring a classic 1980s red Cortina back to life.

The team from North Oxford BMW and MINI in Long Hanborough volunteered their time and effort to restore the vintage vehicle for their charity of the year, Sobell House Hospice.

The car was sold for £3,000, with all the money going to the Headington based charity.

Managing director William Le Fevre bought the 1980s Mk5 Ford Cortina at a charity auction in October last year. The car had previously been sat in a garage since 1997.

Mr Le Fevre spotted an opportunity for the team to have some fun restoring a classic car, while raising money for a good cause.

He said: "The team volunteered hours of their time, at our state-of-the-art body shop in Long Hanborough.

"We brought the car back to life and in three months we completely transformed it – it is absolutely stunning. The car was stripped right back to a shell, new wings fitted and it was re-painted to the spec of a brand-new car.

"We loved this project and are delighted that we've been able to use the opportunity to raise much needed funds for our local hospice care provider, Sobell House."

Sobell House, located in the Churchill Hospital, provides specialist palliative care and support to around 3,000 adult patients and their families each year.

Corporate partnerships manager Tim Wraith said the hospice has "loved" seeing the project come to life.



He said: "We are enormously grateful to the team at North Oxford BMW and MINI. It's so great to see a fundraising initiative involve such

great camaraderie amongst a team."

The Cortina was the United Kingdom's best-selling car during the 1970s.

InBrief

Favourite names

LILY and Oliver topped the list for the most popular baby names in Oxfordshire in 2017.

A total of 7,672 births were registered with Oxfordshire County Council, who have revealed the top 10.

Superintendent registrar Alicja Gilroy said: "Poppy is the girl's name that has surged into the top 10 in 2017 and there are a number of new names for boys – Arthur, Alfie, Oscar, Jacob, Muhammed and Benjamin.

"Other notable recent trends are names that would once have been nicknames from a longer name: Albie, Archie, Ollie, Reggie, Teddy, Freddie, Pippa, Maggie, Rosie, Ellie, Tilly are a few of the more popular ones.

"Old fashioned names are making a comeback as well – Stanley, Arthur, Wilfred, Elsie, Edith, Olive are all rising up the list."

For the full list, visit tinyurl.com/y6w5vs98.

Get mor-a Ora

POP superstar Rita Ora and Jamaican singer Grace Jones have been revealed as two of the 2018 headliners for the Henley Festival.

Also topping the lineup on the floating stage on the River Thames at the five-day festival will be Nile Rogers and Curtis Stigers.

The Henley Festival runs from July 11-15. Visit henley-festival.co.uk for more information.

Workshops to help parents spot online dangers to children

MORE than 480 sexual offences were committed online against children in the Thames Valley over the last two years.

Thames Valley Police and safeguarding charity NSPCC are launching workshops for parents and businesses on how to protect children from the dangers of the internet.

The free, one hour workshops running

from Tuesday will equip parents with the skills to ensure their children know how to set privacy settings, report inappropriate content and block accounts to protect themselves from cyberbullies and potential groomers.

Parents will also learn how to set parental controls, to ensure younger children are protected from content that is not appropriate for their age group,

and understand how to stay up to date with the apps, games and social media that young people are using.

Emma Motherwell, NSPCC campaigns manager, said: "These workshops are a great way [to] ensure parents have all the tools they need to have regular conversations with their children about what they are doing online to ensure they reap the

benefits and protect themselves from the dangers of the internet."

D/Supt Gill Wootton at Thames Valley Police, said: "We are keen to support the NSPCC with these workshops and work alongside them to highlight the risks to young people and help them stay safe whilst online."

To book a workshop, contact emma.motherwell@nspcc.org.uk.

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"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Anna Richardson

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes

mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for

the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information



Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

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A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! **GUARANTEED!**



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130mph. Once it's up - it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free - you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need to do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get

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For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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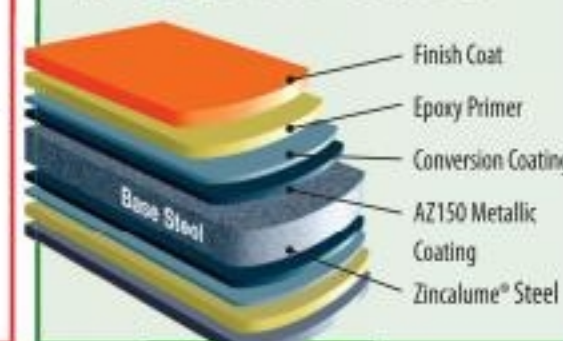
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Police sorry over 'wrong words'

By Eva Astreinidou

THAMES Valley Police have had to apologise for using 'a wrong choice of words' about a man repeatedly punching a woman in the head.

Peter Butler, formerly of Glenham Road, Thame, received the apology following complaints about inaccurate information in a press release.

On January 24, 2016, PC Walker attended an incident in the early hours after closing time at the Swan Hotel Thame where a fight had broken out during a lock in.

Mr Butler pleaded guilty to a number of assaults and was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment in March 2016. The day after sentencing, PC Walker provided information for a press release about the incident, which was subsequently released by the press office at TVP.

In March 2017, Mr Butler complained saying there were various inaccuracies in the press release.

In November, TVP responded to the complaint, accepting that PC Walker's comment, that Mr Butler had punched a woman in the head multiple times, was "a wrong choice of words".

Mr Butler was not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation into his complaint, and mounted an appeal.

In December 2017, the appeal was rejected but head of TVP's professional standards department, Chris Ward, accepted there had been a mistake in the wording.

In a letter addressed to Mr Butler he said: "The service provided to you has fallen short of that which I would expect, for which I offer my apologies."

While the force did not accept any evidence of deliberate misconduct by PC Walker, they confirmed that "strong words of advice" had been

given to him.

Mr Butler said: "I would like to thank Detective Chief Superintendent Chris Ward for his apology. Along with other claims by PC Walker that I walked into the Swan Hotel and punched a woman in the head multiple times was completely untrue."

"I was commended by the judge for pleading guilty at an early stage. I was sentenced and have paid my debt to society. The incorrect press release by Thames Valley Police has had a devastating effect on me, my family and my local business."

More time for uni exams to up pass rates

OXFORD maths and computer science undergraduates have been given extra time to sit exams to improve female student pass rates.

University documents seen by The Daily Telegraph revealed that "female candidates might be more likely to be adversely affected by time pressure" leading to a 15-minute time increase in summer 2017 examinations.

Exam times were extended for all students on the course, although there was no change to the length or difficulty of the questions in the paper.

While more women achieved 2:1s overall with 2:2 figures falling, men continued to be awarded more first class degrees in the subjects.

A spokesperson for Oxford University said: "As part of an ongoing review of our examination process, the Mathematical Institute in Oxford decided to extend its 90 minute examinations to 105 minutes for all students."

"We believe this extra time allows us to better determine which students have gained the fullest understanding of the course material, in a way which remains academically demanding and fair."

"We are encouraged to note that following these changes, women have performed better in our examinations. It is too soon to draw firm conclusions from this evidence."

Take care on country roads

OXFORDSHIRE Fire & Rescue Service is backing a campaign to reduce the number of fatalities that occur on country roads.

The Rural Roads campaign highlights the risks drivers can expect to encounter in the countryside, such as dangerous overtaking on narrow roads, drunken pedestrians and stray farmyard animals.

Country roads are responsible for 60 per cent of fatalities in the county.

The national THINK! Brake before the bend, not on it campaign urges road users to be aware of potential new hazards even on roads drivers know well.

Andy Ford, road safety team leader

at Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service said: "Oxfordshire is a beautiful place to live and we are fortunate to be surrounded by open countryside much of the time when driving."

"Many of us feel safe when we are on a rural road but it is often a deadly mix of long straight runs, where we can pick up speed, punctuated by sharp bends."

"If you aren't familiar with the road, it's safer to drive to what you can see and brake before the bend, not on it."

"If the road is familiar to you, ask yourself what might be different today, what's round that bend this time?"



Wet and icy conditions, blind junctions and wandering sheep are some of the hazards for country road drivers

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Adele Tribute Act



Friends torn apart by tragedy of war



Picture features the previous cast

By Samantha McGregor

BASED on Khaled Hosseini's international best-selling novel, *The Kite Runner* is a tender and heart-wrenching tale of two childhood friends, whose lives are torn apart.

This powerful story, which stars David Ahmad as Amir, is a haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents.

It follows one man's journey to

confront his past and find redemption.

The *Kite Runner* begins in Afghanistan when the country is on the verge of war and two childhood friends are about to be torn apart.

It's a beautiful afternoon in Kabul and the skies are full of the excitement and joy of a kite flying tournament.

But neither Hassan nor Amir can foresee the terrible incident which will shatter their lives forever.

As the world changes around them and their lives move further apart,

this emotional production charts the connected path of two individuals that fate knots tragically and tightly together.

The book was the first novel by Hosseini, an Afghan-American author, and was published in 2003 selling more than seven million copies.

It was made into a film in 2007 and the same year was adapted for the stage by Matthew Sangler with its first performance at San Jose State University. It had its European

premiere in Nottingham.

While in the West End, *The Kite Runner* was described as a "gripping and beautiful play" which received a host of five-star reviews and audience acclaim.

The play runs from Monday until Saturday.

Tickets for *The Kite Runner* at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or via oxfordplayhouse.com

On stage

14 months to go...

Put a date in your diary for *Calendar Girls The Musical* – Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's musical comedy is based on the true story, the film and the award-winning play by Tim Firth.

The new tour will star novelist and television presenter Fern Britton, who returns to the stage for the first time in 30 years, as Marie, former Hi-De-Hi star Ruth Madoc is Jessie, while Denise Welch, of *Coronation Street* and *Waterloo Road* fame, is Celia.

The award-winning production ran for six-months at London's Phoenix Theatre and sold out in Leeds and Manchester.

Don't miss it at the New Theatre in April next year.

Join The Culture Club

A new group to help over 50s connect with culture on their doorstep has been launched at Didcot's Cornerstone Arts Centre.

Called The Culture Club, it will meet fortnightly until April, and is open to anyone over 50 who would like to go behind the scenes and find out more about the centre's varied programme of visual and performing arts.

The free sessions will have a different theme and people will have the opportunity to learn about the art forms, meet professional artists, theatre companies performing at the arts centre, and view gallery exhibitions.

Go to cornerstone-arts.org or call 01235 515147.

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A marathon of laughter

By Samantha McGregor

THE pair behind an Oxford comedy club are set to raise the roof across five venues in just one day.

Alex Farrow and Harry Househam run Jericho Comedy, the twice monthly comedy club at the Jericho Café.

Later this month they will host five shows in one day – three evening shows at the Old Fire Station, in the main theatre, the attic and the studio on February 17, which have sold out.

Now a further two shows will take place at the Jericho Tavern and the Jericho Cafe from 4pm to 6pm.

The line-up includes James Acaster, Ivo Graham and Rachel Parris, as well as some surprise comedians.

Proceeds from the gigs will be donated to mental health charity Oxfordshire Mind, after Alex and Harry pledged to organise 50 comedy nights in honour of the charity's 50th anniversary.

So far, the pair have raised £2,000.

Harry said: "We quite often 'double room' i.e. doing two shows simultaneously."

"For this gala we will be 'double rooming' in the afternoon performing at the Jericho Cafe and the tavern across the road at the same time from 4pm to 6pm."

But for the evening shows, Harry

Harry Househam and Alex Farrow



said they would be "triple rooming performing in all three venues of the Old Fire Station simultaneously".

He said: "It has been quite an organisational feat but adding rooms means that we're on track to raise £3,000 for Mind."

Acaster has appeared on Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo, the Conan O'Brien show; while Netflix has commissioned three shows and he's up for the Edinburgh Comedy Award.

Ivo is the youngest ever winner of So You Think You're Funny, and appeared on television shows Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo and Stand-up Central.

Of the event, Harry said: "Audiences can expect this to be the comedy event of the year."

"Rarely would you get the opportunity to see such great acts up so close in Oxford in such intimate spaces."

"James is about to hit the big time cracking the US scene and with shows commissioned by Netflix, it is really exciting to host him for our regulars and our fellow comedy nerds in Oxford."

"It'll be a cracking evening of big laughs from some of the UK's most exciting stand-ups."

For tickets go to tightfive.org



Tales to warm your heart in winter

A NEW production which had its premiere at Shakespeare's Globe comes to Oxford this month.

Emma Rice's intimate and inventive production The Little Matchgirl (and Other Happier Tales) comes to Oxford Playhouse from February 13 to 17.

This is set to be a magical evening of storytelling and song - for adults and brave children alike - to experience enchanted stories inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tales.

The Little Matchgirl and other stories combines Christian Andersen's stories, The Little Matchgirl, The Princess and the Pea, The Emperor's New Clothes and Thumbelina.

As our destitute heroine struggles to survive, she strikes her matches to

keep warm. Each match will conjure a new story, a new vision, and we will hold her hand as we tumble down the rabbit hole together.

Using puppetry, vivid storytelling, haunting music and exquisite costumes, this promises to be a night to delight, transport and surprise.

This production was co-adapted by Joel Horwood and Emma Rice, who also directs the show.

Danish poet and author Christian Andersen's original short story called The Little Match Girl, was about a dying child's dreams and hope, and was first published in 1845.

Tickets for The Little Matchgirl (and Other Happier Tales) at Oxford Playhouse start at £10. Call the ticket office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com to book.

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Out About

Exploring land, sea and space

By Samantha McGregor

It was a performance at an Oxfordshire teen venue that cemented Adam Barnes' love for music.

And this week the Oxfordshire-based singer songwriter released his latest album *Vacancy At Nasa*.

It comes as Adam prepares to go out on the road to promote the album, which includes the track *Electron* – released late last year.

This month he has three dates in the diary, St Pancras Old Church, London, Paradiso, Amsterdam, and the Baumhaus Bar, in Berlin.

Ahead of the album release, Adam, 25, said: "No-one in my family is musical so I'm not sure where the music thing happened."

But he does remember as a school boy watching a live gig and thinking "I would love to form a band and play gigs."

A few years later he and a friend did just that, and after a performance at Sweatshop, in Wantage, Adam's realised his future was crystal clear, he said: "This is the thing I want to do".

Space themed *Vacancy At Nasa* is an independent release, former St Birinus School, Didcot, pupil Adam said: "With the music industry now it's so easy to reach people via the internet. People find your music on Spotify - you can do everything yourself, it's got more benefits and



you are not giving away a chunk of your work.

"It was a decision I made two or three years ago to be completely independent."

He started writing the album in 2016 and finished it last year – and describes his style as "melancholic and uplifting folk music".

Vacancy At Nasa was produced by Sam Winfield, who worked with Amber Run and Fickle Friends.

Since the release of his debut album *The Land, The Sea & Everything Lost Beneath* and recent EP *One Day We'll Be Fine*, Adam has garnered more than seven million Spotify plays to date.

Previously Adam has toured with the likes of Pete Doherty, William Fitzsimmons and last week appeared at Oxford's St Barnabas Church with Courtney Marie Andrews.

Expect some magic



Andy Ng explains some of the finer points of Chinese cuisine to Widow Twankey (Scott Houston) and from left, Aladdin (Daisy May Richards) with three of the panto children, Sophie Rhone, Alistair Houston, and Jacob West

LAUNTON Players are back with their latest pantomime *Aladdin and the Magic Lamp*.

The players' 32nd pantomime takes to the stage at Cooper School's Performance Hall, in Bicester, on February 15 to 17.

This will be the third time the players' have staged *Aladdin*, however, this is a new script, penned by Martin Evans, who is directing the show.

The show is based on the traditional tale, and includes *Aladdin* and his family - his brother *Wisehe* and their mother, *The Widow Twankey*, and their dragon *Spitfire*, who all live in *Old Peking*. Producer Celia Evans, who has

been in all 32 shows, said in order to get some advice on the nuances of life in China, actors from the show went to chat to Andy Ng, owner of Sun Wah Chinese take away, in Langford Village.

Since 1991, when the first panto *The Grand Old Duke of Launton*, was staged, the Players have raised more than £105,000 for local, national and international good causes.

It is hoped *Aladdin* will raise in the region of £5,000.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children and are available from Coles Books, in Crown Walk, and The Bull Inn, in Launton.

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Out&About Competition

WIN tickets to see The Grinning Man in the West End

Following its hugely successful premiere at Bristol Old Vic, the critically acclaimed new musical The Grinning Man has recently extended its run in the West End and "demands to be seen" (The Times).

From Tony Award-winning director Tom Morris (War Horse), Kneehigh writer Carl Grose and featuring "an outstanding score" (Sunday Times) by Tim Phillips and Marc Teitler, The Grinning Man is a magical reimagining of the classic novel by Victor Hugo (Les Misérables).

A strange new act has arrived at the fairground. Who is Grinpayne and how

Closing date: Sunday, February 18, 2018

did he get his hideous smile? Paraded as a freak, then celebrated as a star, only the love of a sightless girl can reveal his terrible secret.

Set in a fantastical world created by designer Jon Bausor (Bat Out of Hell), and brought to life with the "astounding puppetry" (What's on Stage) of Gyre & Gimble, the original War Horse puppeteers, The Grinning Man invites you to be seduced by the darkness at the Trafalgar Studios.

Trafalgar Studios, 14 Whitehall,

Westminster, London SW1A 2DY Until 14 April 2018

Your chance to WIN tickets!

We have teamed up with THE GRINNING MAN to offer our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets. There are 3x pairs of tickets to be won. To enter please answer the following simple question..

Q: Who wrote the novel that The Grinning Man is based on?

Alexandre Dumas, Charles Dickens or Victor Hugo?

T&Cs apply. See entry form for details.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

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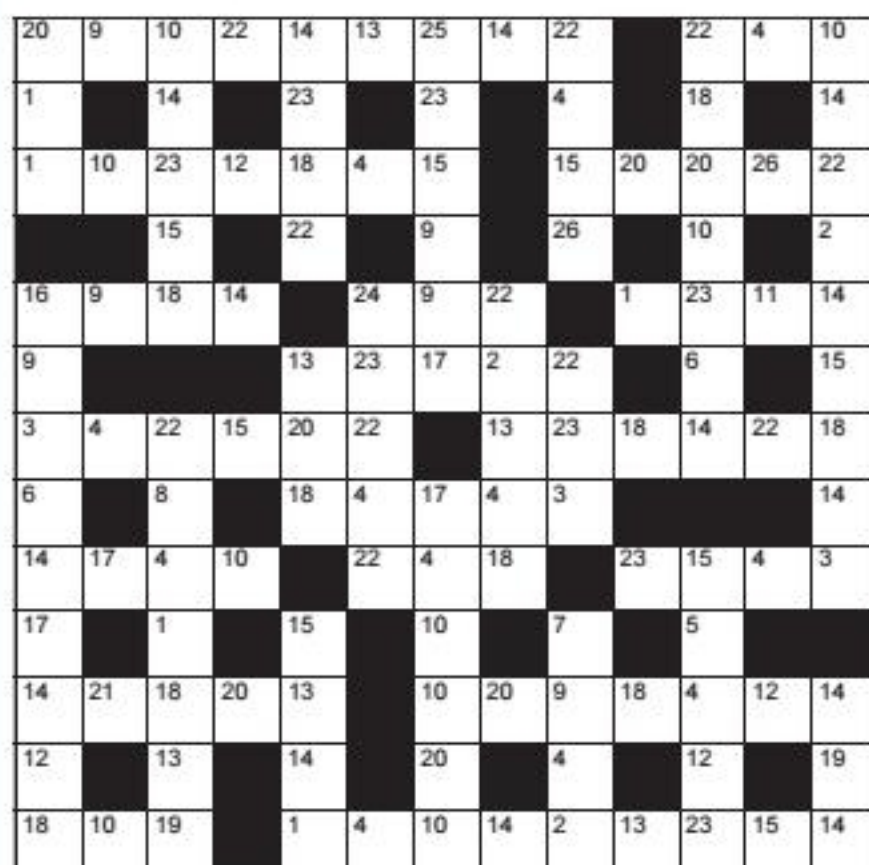
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Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

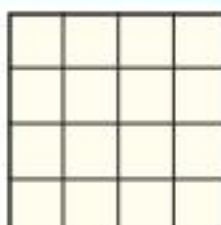
Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

SLIM TIRESOME TREE

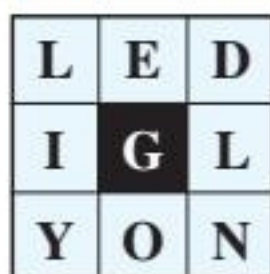
Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.



Quiz Challenge

1. Anna Leonowens is one of the principal characters in which Rodgers and Hammerstein musical?
2. Bill de Blasio is the 109th mayor of which American city?
3. Which eight-letter S word can mean approve as well as disapprove?
4. Lake Titicaca straddles the border of Bolivia and which other South American country?
5. Which Pope died in 1978, just 33 days after his election to the post?
6. St George's Park is a cricket Test match venue in which South African city?
7. Which 1970s British TV sitcom starring Brian Murphy and Yootha Joyce was set at 46 Peacock Crescent, Hampton Wick?
8. Held at Epsom and usually run the day before the Derby, which famous horse race is restricted to three-year-old fillies?
9. Julia Sawalha played which character in the BBC sitcom Absolutely Fabulous?
10. Who played the title role in the 1980 film Private Benjamin?

NONAGRAM



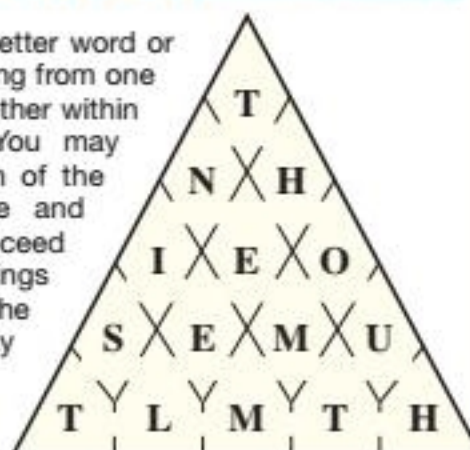
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines: 24 Good; 29 Very Good; 34 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

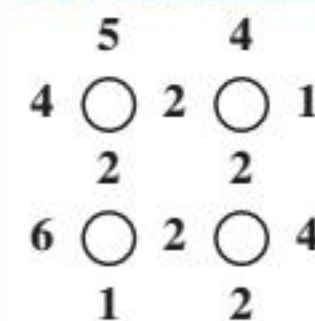


FIVE ALIVE

EQ	UL	AE	CY	TS
XU		YV		RP
OC	BA	RE	SG	EO
TE		IR		AT
LA	CO	ET	OS	SR

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

EQUALISER

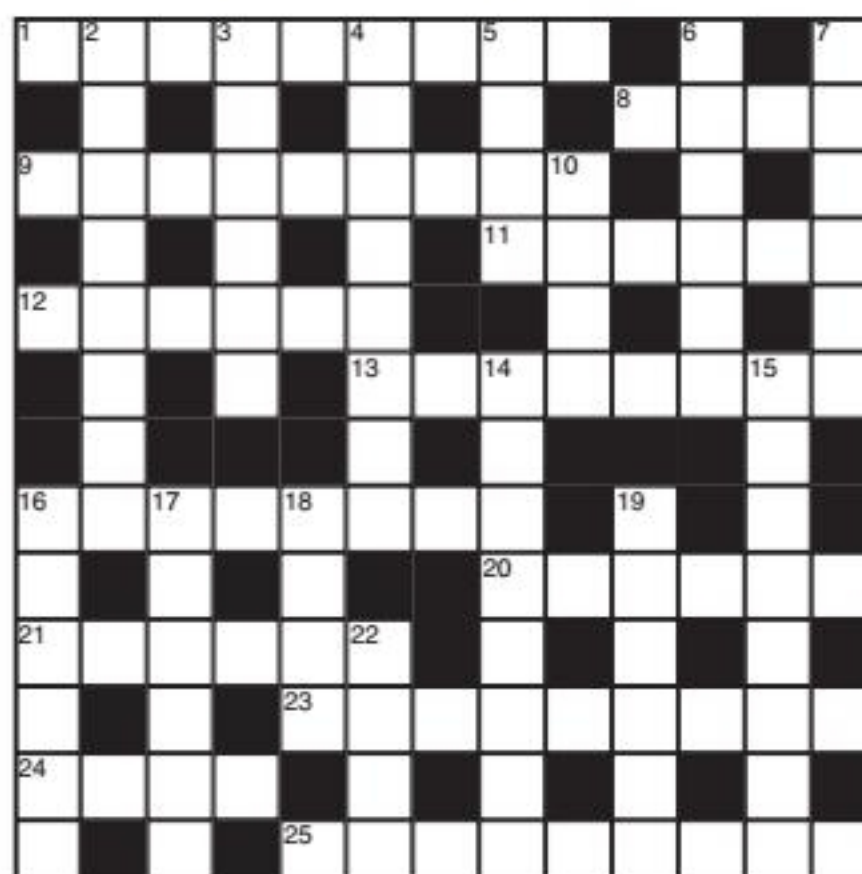


Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



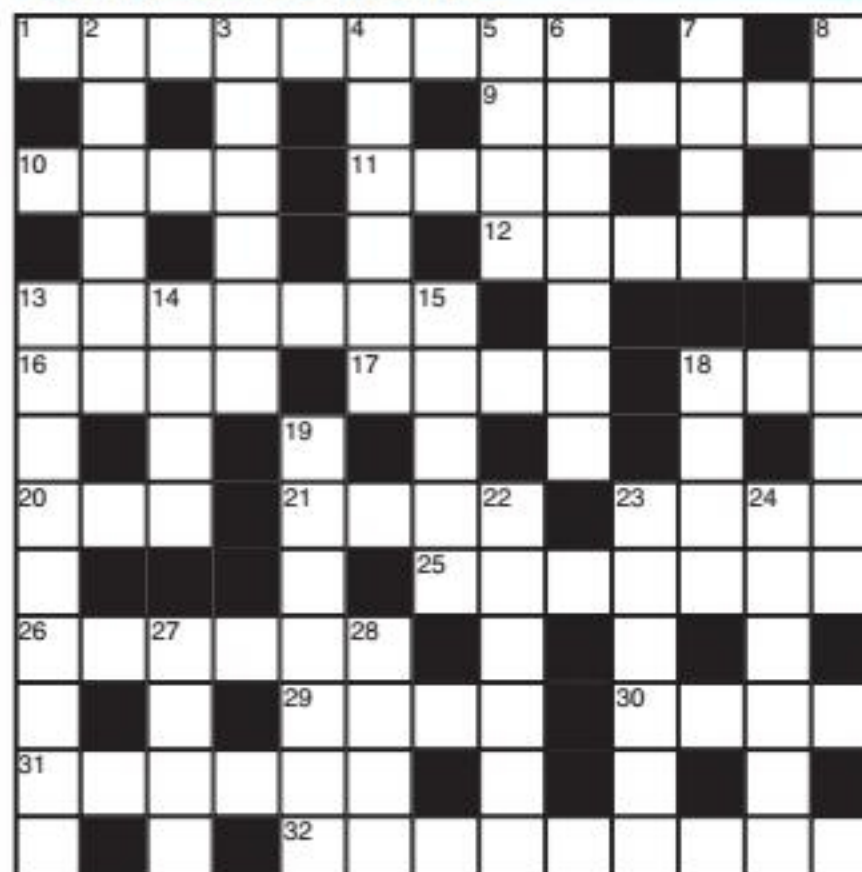
ACROSS

1. Well-known film sponsor (9)
8. Discover hole in new robe (4)
9. Hitler's BA made him a practitioner of alternative medicine (9)
11. Gunners return with grim enthusiasm (6)
12. Economy in the pink (6)
13. Met hasty characters with a precious stone (8)
16. Look around for a chance of success (8)
20. Get even in Geneva when drunk (6)
21. Where in France an idiot will overcome by greater ingenuity (6)
23. German's gone off with hesitation to find a bird (9)
24. What one can do on the net and on the waves (4)
25. Inexperienced settle in inhospitable country (9)

DOWN

2. Eavesdrop this way, so to speak (8)
3. Material for walls, floor and roof of building (6)
4. Obvious sign of a sneak? (8)
5. Girl coming from the jumble sale (4)
6. The empty grave turned out to contain an unimportant person (6)
7. When let out it ceases to be one (6)
10. Jog right round in race (4)
14. Another ten fish to catch (8)
15. It's a watercolour (3,5)
16. Prince right to expel the novelist (6)
17. Howzat? (6)
18. Stiffly formal pair I'm following (4)
19. Plant Leonard returned to the marshland first (6)
22. Drop rate change (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Suggesting (9)
9. Reddish-brown (6)
10. Piece (4)
11. Cover with slabs (4)
12. Bodyguard (6)
13. ----- plague (7)
16. Overt (4)
17. Manage (4)
18. Obtain (3)
20. Destiny (3)
21. Row (4)
23. Compass point (4)

DOWN

25. Rejoinder (7)
26. Empty (6)
29. Changed colour (4)
30. Financial institution (4)
31. Harshness (6)
32. Possible (9)
7. Board game (4)
8. Establish (9)
13. Broad road (9)
14. Pulse (4)
15. Lid (5)
18. Departs (4)
19. Arise (5,2)
22. Puzzle (6)
23. Australian marsupial (6)
24. Verse (6)
27. Secretive (4)
28. Novice (4)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

4			3			1	9	5
					4		8	
							2	6
			8			1		
					7	6		4
		1	9	4	5			
	7					2		
6	9	4		3		5		8
8	2		6		9	3		

5								2
	7		4					3
	6			8	7			
			9			3		
	4						6	9
3		5		9			1	
				1		5		6
			5		4			
				2			8	

SOLUTIONS

CROSS CODE
 Across: 1. The King and I; 2. New York; 3. Sanction; 4. Peru; 5. Pope John Paul I; 6. Port Elizabeth; 7. George and Mildred; 8. The Oaks; 9. Saffron Mounson; 10. Goldie Hawn.
 Down: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.

NONAGRAM
 Across: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.
 Down: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.

WORD PYRAMID
 Across: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.
 Down: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.

MAGIC SQUARE
 Across: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.
 Down: 1. Elected; 2. Cargo; 3. Loess; 4. Eynne; 5. Eynne; 6. Eynne; 7. Eynne; 8. Eynne; 9. Eynne; 10. Eynne; 11. Eynne; 12. Eynne; 13. Eynne.

QUICK CROSSWORD
 Across: 1. Suggesting (9); 9. Reddish-brown (6); 10. Piece (4); 11. Cover with slabs (4); 12. Bodyguard (6); 13. ----- plague (7); 16. Overt (4); 17. Manage (4); 18. Obtain (3); 20. Destiny (3); 21. Row (4); 23. Compass point (4).
 Down: 25. Rejoinder (7); 26. Empty (6); 29. Changed colour (4); 30. Financial institution (4); 31. Harshness (6); 32. Possible (9); 7. Board game (4); 8. Establish (9); 13. Broad road (9); 14. Pulse (4); 15. Lid (5); 18. Departs (4); 19. Arise (5,2); 22. Puzzle (6); 23. Australian marsupial (6); 24. Verse (6); 27. Secretive (4); 28. Novice (4).

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Saturday February 3rd

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1



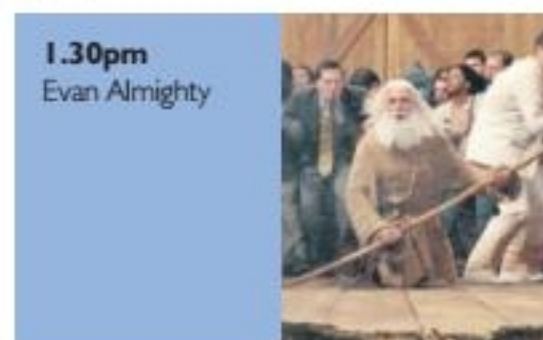
9.30pm Hard Sun
10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am Mary Berry Everyday

BBC 2



5.15pm Flog It!
7.30am Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch
8.00am The Dengineers
8.30am Deadly Top 10
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Robot Wars
11.00am Homes Under the Hammer

ITV



1.30pm Evan Almighty
8.30am Be Cool, Scooby-Doo
9.05am Wishart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Dancing on Ice

Channel 4



5.35pm The Supervet
7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.55am Frasier
10.25am The Big Bang Theory
11.55am The Simpsons

Channel 5



8.00pm Blind Date
9.40am Digby Dragon
9.55am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.40am Fail Army
11.05am Police Interceptors

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Six Nations Preview
1.45pm Six Nations Rugby Union
4.15pm Six Nations Rugby Union

12.00pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
1.00pm Tennis: Davis Cup Spain v GB
3.30pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Lebanon
4.30pm Final Score
5.15pm Flog It!

1.20pm ITV News
1.30pm Evan Almighty
3.15pm Catchphrase
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

12.25pm The Simpsons
12.55pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Come Dine with Me
2.25pm Coast v Country
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.35pm The Supervet

12.00pm Police Interceptors
1.00pm The A-Team
2.00pm The A-Team
3.00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
4.00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
5.00pm Rich House, Poor House
5.55pm 5 News Weekend

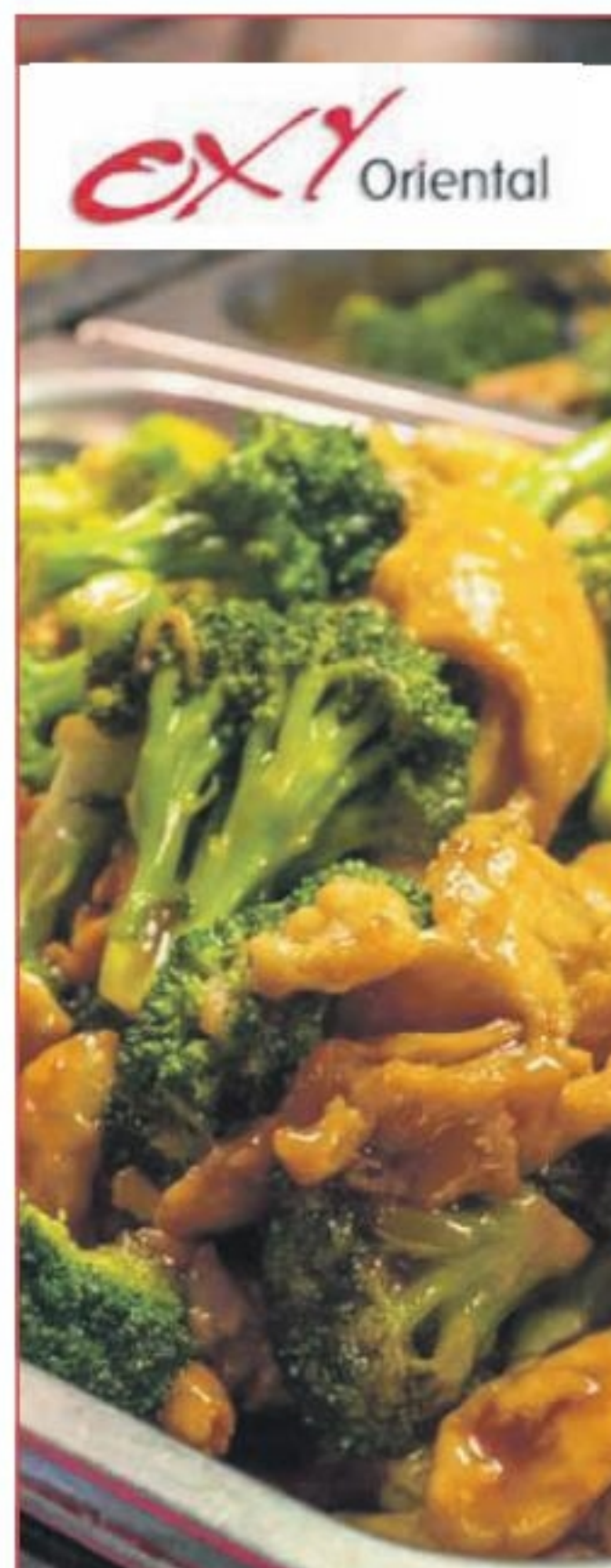
7.00pm BBC News
7.10pm Regional News and Weather
7.15pm All Together Now
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm BBC News
9.30pm Hard Sun
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.55pm The NFL Show
12.25am Ill Manors
2.20am Weather for the Week Ahead
2.25am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

6.00pm Hugh's Wild West
7.00pm A House Through Time
8.00pm Dad's Army
8.30pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
9.00pm QI XL
9.45pm Live at the Apollo
10.30pm The Talented Mr. Ripley
12.40am Albatross
2.05am This is BBC Two
6.05am Coast
6.35am The NFL Show

6.00pm ITV News London
6.05pm ITV News
6.15pm You've Been Framed!
6.40pm Take Me Out
8.00pm The Voice UK
9.30pm Through the Keyhole
10.30pm ITV News
10.45pm Lethal Weapon
12.40am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am Bottom Knocker Street
6.20am Bottom Knocker Street

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Great Canal Journeys
8.00pm Village of the Year with Penelope Keith
9.00pm Suffragette
11.10pm About Time
1.20am The Last Leg
2.15am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.20am Coast v Country
5.15am Location, Location, Location
6.10am Kirstie's Vintage Gems
6.15am King of Queens
6.40am King of Queens

6.00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
7.00pm Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
8.00pm Blind Date
9.00pm Football on 5
9.55pm Football on 5
10.25pm The X Files
11.15pm The X Files
12.10am Super Casino
3.10am Vampire Academy
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am The Great Artists
5.35am HouseBusters



Book your Valentine's Day at the Oxy

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

Salads
 Prawn Crackers
 Aromatic Lamb with Trimmings
 Sesame Prawn Toast
 Deep fried Won Ton
 Soups
 Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
 Onion Rings
 Vegetable Spring Rolls
 Lemon Chicken
 Deep Fried Chicken Wing
 Vegetable Curry Samosa
 Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger.

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
 Sweet and Sour Chicken
 Beef with Black Bean Sauce
 Malaysian Chicken Curry
 Vegetable Foo Yung
 Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
 Mushroom with Oyster Sauce
 Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sauce
 Deep Fried Aubergines
 Fried Rice
 Boil Rice
 Chips
 Noodles in Special Soy Sauce
 Singapore Vermicelli

DESSERTS

Top off your lunch with something sweet. Don't worry, it's all for one affordable price!

Ice Cream
 Jellies, Cakes and Fresh Fruits

DRINKS

Quench your thirst with something from our extensive drinks menu to wash down the best pan-asian food in Oxford.

A wide selection of White, Red and Rosé Wines from Argentina, Italy, Chile, Australia and California
 Selection of Sparkling Wines and Champagne
 Selection of Draught Beers
 Selection of Bottled International Beers
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 Soft Drinks, Fruit Juices and Mineral Water
 Selection of Teas and Fresh Coffee

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Saturday (12 noon - 4:00pm)
 Adult: £8.99
 Child (under 150cm): £5.00
 Minimum charge: £2.00
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Monday - Thursday (5:30pm - 10:30pm)
 Adult £14.99

Child (under 150cm): £6.99
 Minimum charge: £2.00
Friday & Saturday (5:30pm - 10:45pm)
 Adult: £15.99
 Child (under 150cm): £7.49
 Minimum charge: £2.00
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 Child (under 150cm): £7.49
 Minimum charge: £2.00

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Sat 27th Jan • £5 adv • 9.00pm

Two Icons Dub: Celebrating The Lives of Bob Marley and Dennis Brown

+ Ras Keith + ZAIA + TOKA
+ Shumba Youth + More

Sat 27th Jan • £10 adv • 10pm

SASASAS - Up Another Lvl

Sun 28th Jan • £16 adv

This Is The Kit

+ Seamus Fogarty + Emma Gatrill

Fri 2nd Feb • £30 adv • 6.30pm

Natalie Imbruglia

Sat 3rd Feb • £13.50 adv • 6.30pm

The Sherlocks

+ Neon Waltz + Arcades

Fri 9th Feb • £8 adv

Uprising - BBC Introducing Ft. Cassels

+ Cherokii + Easter Island Statues
+ Flatlands

Sat 10th Feb • £12 adv • 6.30pm

Cash - A Tribute To The Man in Black

+ Tony Goff & the Broken Colours
+ Andy Robbins

Sun 11th Feb • **SOLD OUT**

Jorja Smith + Mahalia

Mon 12th Feb • £22 adv

Newton Faulkner

Thu 15th Feb • £17.50 adv

Hayseed Dixie

+ Emma McGrath

Fri 16th Feb • £5 adv • 11pm

Silent Disco by Silent Social

Sat 17th Feb • £22.50 adv • 6.30pm

Dr John Cooper Clarke

Sat 17th Feb • £10 adv • 11pm

Tom Zanetti & K.O Kane

Fri 23rd Feb • £8 adv • 11pm

Dimension UK Tour

Sat 24th Feb • £12 adv

KING 810

+ Courtesans + A Trust Unclean

Sat 3rd Mar • £20 adv • 6pm

The Blockheads + Chasing Daylight

Tues 6th Feb • £20 adv

Rejjie Snow

Wed 7th Mar • £17.50 ad • 6.30pm

Paul Draper

Fri 9th March • £16 adv • 6.30pm

Space + The Shapes + Candidates

Sat 10th Mar • **SOLD OUT** • 6.00pm

Sleeper

Sat 10th Mar • £5 adv • 11pm

Parka Monkeys (Indie Club Night) Ft. Adam Ficek (Babyshambles) DJ Set

Mon 12th Mar • £12 adv

Fickle Friends

Fri 16th March • £20 adv • 6.30pm

Alabama 3

Fri 16th March • £14 adv • 6.30pm

The Amy Winehouse Experience ...A.K.A Lioness

Sat 17th March • £15 adv • 6.30pm

Ferocious Dog + Noble Jacks



Sun 18th Mar • £13 adv

The AC/DC Experience

Tue 20th Mar • £13 adv

Rae Morris

Sat 24th Mar • £20 adv • 6.30pm

Turin Brakes

Fri 30th Mar • £15 adv

Super Hans

Sun 8th Apr • £20 adv

3 Generations of Ska

+ Stranger Cole + Neville Staple Band
+ Sugary Staple + The AC30s
+ The Inflatables

Sun 8th Apr • £10 adv • 11pm

Darkzy UK Tour

Mon 16th Apr • £20 adv

Little Comets

Thu 19th Apr • £16.50 adv

The White Buffalo



Thu 26th Apr • £14 adv

Will Heard

Fri 27th Apr • £28.50 adv • 6.30pm

Heather Small - The voice of M People

Sat 28th Apr • £15 adv • 6.30pm

UK Foo Fighters - Banging On the Ceiling Tour

Thu 3rd May • £16.50 adv

Lower Than Atlantis



Fri 4th May • £25 adv • 6.30pm

Wilko Johnson

+ Hugh Cornwell Band

Mon 7th May • £21 adv

The Bluetones

Fri 15th Jun • £16.50 adv • 6.30pm

Nick Heyward

Sat 22nd Sep • £15 adv • 6.30pm

Dressed To kill - A Tribute To KISS

Sat 6th Oct • £13 adv • 6.30pm

The Smyths - Unite and Take Over Tour 2018

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Sunday February 4th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

7.30pm Still
Open All Hours



7.35am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm The Truth About Getting Fit
2.15pm Wonders of the Moon
3.15pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Songs of Praise
4.20pm The Proposal

6.05pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Countryfile Winter Special
7.30pm Still Open All Hours
8.00pm Call the Midwife
9.00pm McMafia
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.15pm Super Bowl LII
3.50am Weather for the Week Ahead
3.55am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

7.00pm New
York: America's
Busiest City



7.05am Gardeners' World
7.35am Countryfile
8.30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
10.00am Tennis: Davis Cup Spain v GB

1.00pm Money for Nothing
1.30pm Talking Pictures
2.10pm Jane Eyre
3.45pm The Crane Gang
4.45pm Elise Christie: In From the Cold
5.15pm Ski Sunday

6.00pm Six Nations Rugby Special
7.00pm New York: America's
Busiest City
8.00pm Yellowstone
9.00pm Dragons' Den
10.00pm The Mash Report
10.30pm Insert Name Here
11.00pm Cleverman
11.55pm Women's Six Nations Highlights
12.25am Yves Saint Laurent
2.05am Question Time
3.05am Holby City
4.05am This is BBC Two
6.00am My Life in Books

ITV

8.00pm
Endeavour



9.05am Wishart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am River Monsters
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am The Martin Lewis Money Show
11.30am The Voice UK

1.00pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.10pm Britain's Brightest Family
1.40pm The Cruise
2.15pm 6 Nations Live: Italy v England
3.30pm ITV News London
5.40pm ITV News

6.00pm Dancing on Ice
8.00pm Endeavour
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Peston on Sunday
11.15pm Next of Kin
12.15am Great Art
1.05am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

Channel 4

8.00pm
The Biggest
Little Railway
in the World



7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's
Friday Night Feast
1.35pm The Simpsons
2.05pm The Simpsons
2.35pm Never Been Kissed
4.40pm Shark Tale

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Posh Pawn
8.00pm The Biggest Little
Railway in the World
9.00pm SAS: Who Dares Wins
10.00pm Maltese
11.15pm Elizabeth
1.25am The World's Most
Expensive Food
2.20am The Supervet
3.15am Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
4.10am KOTV Boxing Weekly
4.40am Location, Location, Location
5.35am Draw it!

Channel 5

1.55pm Johnny
English Reborn



9.00am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.15am Shimmer and Shine
9.35am Digby Dragon
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Football on 5

12.00pm Police Interceptors
12.55pm Police Interceptors
1.55pm Johnny English Reborn
4.00pm The Last Airbender
5.00pm 5 News
5.05pm The Last Airbender

6.00pm Bulletproof Monk
8.00pm Batman Begins
9.00pm 5 News
9.05pm Batman Begins
10.50pm The Punisher
1.05am The X Files
1.55am The X Files
2.40am Super Casino
4.00am Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am The Great Artists
5.35am HouseBusters
6.00am Puffin Rock
6.10am Poppy Cat

Monday February 5th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

5.15pm
Pointless



9.15am Countryfile Winter Diaries
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under
11.45am AI: Britain's Longest Road

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Moving On
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm The Farmers' Country
Showdown
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Inside Out
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Panorama
9.00pm Silent Witness
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Have I Got Old News for You
11.15pm The Graham Norton Show
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.10am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

2.00pm
Monty Halls' Great
Escape



7.15am Food: Truth or Scare
8.00am Antiques Roadshow
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Women's Six Nations Highlights
1.30pm Coast
2.00pm Monty Halls' Great Escape
3.00pm A Place to Call Home
3.50pm This Wild Life
4.20pm The Hunt
5.20pm Flog It!

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great American
Railroad Journeys
7.00pm Big Dreams Small Spaces
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Horizon
10.00pm Two Doors Down
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm NFL
12.05am Odyssey
12.45am Countryfile
1.45am Big Cats
2.45am This is BBC Two

ITV

7.00pm
Emmerdale



8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Next of Kin
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Death Row 2018 with
Trevor McDonald
11.45pm Killer Women with Piers Morgan
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

4.00pm A
Place in the Sun:
Winter Sun



7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen
Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawn
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm Village of the Year with
Penelope Keith
4.00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm How to Lose Weight Well
9.00pm The Bulger Killers:
Was Justice Done?
10.00pm First Dates Hotel
11.05pm Derry Girls
11.40pm Hunted
12.40am SAS: Who Dares Wins
1.35am Ramsay's Kitchen
Nightmares USA
2.25am How to Lose Weight Well
3.20am The Lie Detective

Channel 5

2.15pm NCIS



8.20am Rusty Rivets
8.35am Shimmer and Shine
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm Cowboy Builders
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Killer Assistant
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Rugby on 5: Anglo-
Welsh Cup Highlights
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm The X Files
10.00pm The Silence of the Lambs
11.00pm 5 News
11.05pm The Silence of the Lambs
12.25am All New Traffic Cops
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink
4.45am House Doctor

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Oxford sellers accepting larger discounts to sell their homes

Bill Cooper, co-author of *The Oxford Property Blog* and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford



Hometrack has recently published an analysis of Zoopla data and found that the gap between the asking price of Oxford homes and the achieved sale price has increased, meaning that increasingly buyers hold more of the negotiating power.

According to Hometrack's analysis in 2013 the average Oxford home was discounted around 1.8% in 2013 to achieve a sale, whereas that increased to around 3.8% in 2017. Hometrack identifies London, Oxford and Cambridge as experiencing comparable trends, however in London buyers are buying properties with a 10% discount on asking price as opposed to around 3.8% discount in Oxford and around 1% in Cambridge.

The average house price growth in the 20 biggest cities was 5.4%, an average pulled down by a mere 1.9% increase in London during 2017. We know from previous house price cycles that it is typical for London to surge ahead of the

market during the early stages of the cycle, only to stagnate later when regional property typically surge albeit from a much lower base price.

So that's all pretty depressing then, right? Well, it is important for home sellers to understand the market trends and where we are in terms of the property cycle. But, it is also important to take data from multiple sources to get a true picture. For example, Dataloft captures and analyses data direct from the land registry – the best source of information on properties that have sold successfully. Their analysis shows that Oxford-wide, sold houses completed at an average price that was 6% up on the previous 12 months. That 6% increase includes the increased discount identified by Hometrack. Dataloft also confirms Oxford homes have increased in value by 39% over the last 5 years, at a time when savings have typically yielded below 3% over the same period.

So how come discounts on asking price are higher despite property being up 6% in overall value? Surely these data are at odds with each other? Well not necessarily. Over the last 12 months the number of completed house sales has fallen by 11% - so fewer homes are selling. Normally that would result in falling prices not the 6% increase we have seen. If demand for Oxford homes is still strong, why are sellers agreeing to higher discounts on the advertised asking price? It reflects a market-wide trend for over-pricing when listing an Oxford property for sale. Too often, estate agents are to blame, setting unrealistic expectations in order to win a new instruction. Their strategy is to list too high, and to persuade the seller to reduce the price progressively over time.

Since 1 January, we are seeing a rash of properties being slashed in price, fuelling negative headlines and the fear that prices are struggling. In reality, we are seeing agents who have listed properties too high, desperately persuading their clients to readjust price to nearer the true market value. They know that if a property currently listed for sale fails to find a buyer before March, it will be swamped by the annual peak of new listings which has been seen in March over the past 3 years.

To sell a property quickly in Oxford, it must be priced correctly, presented professionally and sold by a committed agent who will nurse it through to completion. The best agents in Oxford sell over 65% of the properties they list. The cur-

rent average is reported to be below 50%. And, online agents are reported to routinely achieve well below 50%. If you have any doubts about your own property, please give me a call, and I'd be delighted to have a chat and to review its current marketing.



It's time to get EPC savvy

Whether you're a homeowner, landlord or a tenant, you'll have almost certainly heard of Energy Performance Certificates, or EPCs. Much like the stickers you'll find on domestic white goods and car tyres, an EPC provides an indication of the current and potential energy efficiency of a property.

In an era when people are increasingly aware of not only the eco savings, but also the financial savings that can be made by being energy efficient, this can't be a bad thing.

Indeed, if you're a landlord, you'll already be aware of new standards coming in to force this April which stipulates that any rental property must achieve a minimum energy efficiency "E" rating. Not adhering to this may result in financial penalties for landlords.

And whilst, for the moment, the

minimum energy efficiency standards coming in to effect in April 2018 will only affect landlords, if you're simply a homeowner living in the property you own, you might also want to pay closer attention to your home's energy

efficiency.

That's because the Committee on Climate Change recently called for moves to be made to ban the sale of homes with poor energy efficiency ratings of "F" and "G", where the



homeowner has failed to make improvements. Whether that comes to fruition, and in what timeframe, remains to be seen. Whilst it is not yet an issue for homeowners in the same way that it is for landlords, the benefits of a more energy efficient home should, nonetheless, be viewed positively.

And the good news is that small changes can have a big impact.

Insulation is key. Given up to 40% of heat can escape through the roof, it's definitely worth looking in to! Increased insulation to walls and loft areas where possible will make a significant difference, as will replacing your central heating boiler; the installation of solar panels; or window and door replacement with double or triple glazed alternatives.

However, it's likely you'll only take these steps if you're facing a neces-

sary replacement due to age, or you're wholly committed to ultimate energy efficiency. Thankfully, further improvements can be made with less severe financial outlays. For example, replacing your light bulbs with more energy efficient ones and turning appliances off rather than leaving in 'stand-by' are simple steps that over time can have a real impact.

So, if you're keen to reduce the carbon footprint of your property and wish to understand the impact that this could have on its overall attractiveness in the sales market, then visit your local Andrews branch – there are five across Oxfordshire – or visit www.andrewsonline.co.uk, and ensure you're ahead of the game if minimum energy efficiency standards for property sales are introduced in the future.

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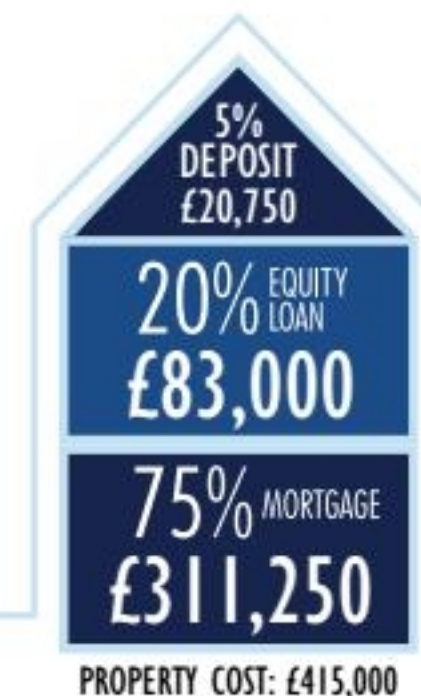
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Peugeot 108 GT Line 1.2, five-door (82bhp)

Breath of fresh air from funky city car

By **Tony Yates**

THIS week's road test puts me in the driving seat of the Peugeot 108 GT Line. First off, I'm not really a big fan of the small eco car, but then again I did own an eco-warrior a few years back which was a little 'ordinary'. Although I have to say, the 108 GT Line from Peugeot looks far from ordinary. In fact, it looks pretty smart.

With that in mind, let's waste no more time and get on with the review. Firstly, you will notice that it's chic, small, and actually not that bad looking. Plus, on the inside, it's funky and well set out with minimal fuss. Actually thinking about it, I like both the outside and the inside. But of course, I would never say that out loud. Oh!

So, did Peugeot get it right? Well, let's see what's occurring with this funky little 5 door.

Power & efficiency

My test car was fitted with a 3-cyl 1.2 petrol engine, which actually helped the little 108 dash about like a scalded

Cat, meaning it's pretty nippy for city driving or doing the kid's school run. If you are interested, then you can expect a 0-62 time of 10.9sec and a decent top speed of around 106mph. Fuel consumption is also an important part of buying a small car, and I'm happy to report that the little 108 achieved a combined consumption of 60mpg. Plus, it has the addition of 116Nm of torque, which is more than enough to keep you progressing at a steady pace.

What is exciting though, is how that little 3 cylinder sounds. Ok, it's not Ferrari sounding, but it does sound kind of 'racy'. Then reality slips in and you remember the 108 it's not about performance, it's about saving you money and the planet

On the road

The 108 is a very playful city car that is safe, but also practical in 5 door format. Of course, I wanted to find out more, so I went for a brisk drive into some of the more challenging corners. Well, I'm happy to report that the 108

did a pretty good job of keeping it all together. Actually, even when the pace picked up, I still found the steering to be direct and well balanced. Also, being small, I expected the 108 to be a little 'bouncy', but thankfully the suspension does a great job of keeping you comfortable on many different road surfaces.

Equipment, safety & technology

The 108 offers a first-rate experience that is achieved through a combination of interior quality, attention to detail and a wide range of equipment such as; DAB Radio, automatic headlights, and LED daytime running lights. Plus as you move up the model range, the list gets better. For instance, my test car was the 'GT Line' so you get additional treatments such as; 15" 'S Line' alloy wheels, gloss black door mirrors, black rear spoiler, tinted rear windows, rear exhaust finisher, black leather seating, 7" multifunction colour touch screen, gloss black interior ambience



with red detailing and automatic air conditioning.

To sum up

I actually like the Peugeot 108, because it gives you all the things

you need from a small city car. To be honest, it really is a breath of fresh air from Peugeot. So, if you are looking for a city car with 5 doors, then you are almost certainly looking in the right place.

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F1 warm up for Sainz in rally

By George Welch

Motorsport

CARLOS Sainz warmed up for the start of this year's Formula One season in style by making his World Rally Championship debut in the final stage of the 2018 Rallye Monte-Carlo.

The 23-year-old Renault driver followed in the wheel tracks of his double World Champion dad, also called Carlos Sainz, when he got behind the wheel of a New Renault Mégane R.S to tackle the last stage of the iconic rally on Sunday.

Sainz acted as the VIP course car to take on the 13.58km SS17 La Cabanette-Col de Braus stage that ran through the Alpes-Maritimes surrounding the Principality of Monaco.

The stage, which was the close of the 2018 WRC-season opening rally, started at 1,400m above sea level and descended through a series of tight

hairpin bends before climbing again over a high mountain pass and ending at the Col de Braus.

The new Renault Mégane R.S was equipped with studded, snow tyres that helped Carlos negotiate the icy, slippery conditions.

Sainz said: "That was very special. I have dreamt about doing this a lot of times in my life and now thanks to Renault it has come true."

"I have always wanted to do a rally with a co-driver, pace notes and a good pace and I loved it. The car was really good."

The Spaniard added: "My dad just told me to take it carefully, but I had a lot of fun."

His dad said he was 'very happy' that Sainz got to experience a taste of 'such a legendary rally'.

Renault, whose Formula One base is in Enstone, won the 1925, 1935, 1958 and 1981 editions of the rally.

Sainz will be back in more familiar surroundings when the lights go out for Formula One opener in Melbourne on March 26.



Carlos Sainz in action in the Rallye Monte-Carlo
Picture: Renault Sport Formula One Team

Chinnor defeat dents hopes of catching leaders

Rugby

HENLEY Hawks edged a narrow encounter with Old Redcliffians 22-20 on Saturday scoring a penalty try two minutes from the end.

Henley's visitors sit eight places below them in the National League 2 South, but matched the hosts at a rain sodden Dry Leas.

Tries from Jake Albon, Tommy Haynes and Alan Awcock helped ensure Henley claim sixth spot in the league on 56 points.

Elsewhere, Chinnor were dealt a blow in their title chase surrendering 26-14 at home to league leaders Cinderford to leave them four points adrift in second on 86 points.

In the South West 1 East, Chippenham leapfrogged Banbury into second after the Oxfordshire side's match with Old Centralians was called off.

Not far behind in fourth, Oxford Harlequins battled to a 20-13 win over visitors Stratford Upon Avon to remain one place above Witney, who beat Salisbury 32-15 to add to their 52 points total.

Grove failed to make it back-to-back wins losing 27-22 to Chippenham, their fifth defeat in six.

Lowly Gosford All Blacks, without a win since November, remain second bottom in the Southern Counties North after defeat at Wallingford 25-5.



Wheatley's Jack Taylor tries to get his team back in the game at Didcot. Picture: Simon Chadbone

In the Berks Bucks & Oxon Premier, Didcot beat third placed Wheatley 26-9, while Littlemore's clash with Hungerford was postponed.

Formula E gets off to Chile start in South America



Alex Lynn isn't fazed by a new circuit in Santiago
Picture: DS Virgin Racing

Formula E

ALEX Lynn is hoping to waste no time in getting to grips with the new track as Chile hosts its first Formula E race on Saturday.

The Oxford based racer and DS Virgin Racing team-mate Sam Bird – the championship's only all-British pairing – are looking to build on their positive start to the season at Chile's first-ever international motor race.

Lynn, who has never been to the South American country, said: "We had a frustrating race in Marrakesh [Lynn was involved in a crash early on], so we're keen to put that behind us and come out fighting again in Chile. "I'm hoping we can get up to speed

with the new track layout quickly and be in the mix from the off."

As well as a new track to contend with in round four, for the first time in Formula E's history there will also be no minimum pit stop time, adding a new challenge to the racing strategy.

Earlier this week Formula E digitally unveiled its all-new season five Formula E car, ahead of the full reveal in March.

The car will be able to last the entire race, negating the need for driver car changes, and will possess almost twice the power of the current racer.

Lynn said: "I think the new car personifies everything that Formula E is about; futuristic, fast thinking and cutting edge in the world of motor racing. It's the perfect car to take Formula E to the next level."

Hoops seal narrowest of victories in tense tie

Basketball

A TENSE all Oxford clash in the Division Four South West on Sunday between the Stealers and City Hoops produced a tight encounter at Henley College.

Oxford City Hoops ran out 73-72 victors but were trailing 16-13 at the end of the first quarter.

The Hoops turned things around in the second quarter and Oxford Stealers were unable to force their way back into the tie.

Despite a high scoring third quarter, the Stealers' 21 points scored were cancelled out by City Hoops' 23, with both teams scoring eight in the final quarter. The close scoreline matches the pair's league standings.

The win ties Oxford City Hoops

on 12 points with Thames Valley Cavaliers II and Reading Rockets II in sixth and seventh respectively.

They sit one position above their neighbours in the Division Four table on 12 points with six wins from 13 games, while Stealers have three wins from 14 on six points.

Stealers are back in action on Saturday when they take on RCT Gladiators at Oxford Brookes

University.

Thames Valley Cavaliers II play Oxford City Hoops at Didcot Girls School the following day.

Oxford Brookes University's Saturday game with Swindon Shock in Division Three South was postponed.

It means the University side are yet to play this year following the abandonment of their game with Greenwich Titans the previous week.

Hoping for better in Malaysia after missed cut

Golf

SUCCESSIVE rounds of one-under par were not enough for Eddie Pepperell to make the cut at the weather-affected Omega Dubai Desert Classic.

The Abingdon golfer carded back-to-back scores of 71 for two-under par in the United Arab Emirates, two shots away from making the cut.

Teeing off on the 10th tee day one started positively with birdies going in on the 12th and 18th.

Bogeys followed on the second and fourth but a birdie on the par four fifth put the Frilford Heath member back in the red numbers.

Pepperell's second round was delayed due to fog and, when he got out on the course, he recorded pars on his first seven holes before darkness arrived.

The 27-year-old picked up a bogey on the ninth meaning he required a major turnaround on the back nine to make the cut from level-par.

A birdie on the next hole preceded a double-bogey on the 11th, all but

ending Pepperell's prospects of a longer weekend.

Three birdies followed on the 13th, 17th and 18th holes but Pepperell, who started the 2018 European Tour with two missed cuts, left it too late.

It meant Pepperell finished just inside the top 100 in a 99th place.

Haotong Li topped the leaderboard with a score of 23-under par, one shot ahead of Rory McIlroy.

Pepperell tees off from the 10th tee of the Maybank Championship in Malaysia at 5.20am GMT time (1.20pm local time) today.



Sport

Bright Stars eclipse all rivals

By George Welch

Ice Hockey

IT has been a difficult season for Chelmsford Chieftains. The Essex side were a force to be reckoned with in NIHL South Division 1 last year, winning the title for the second year in a row.

Dropping down to Division 2 this season it seemed they would dominate the lower league – but it has been a different story since last summer's league restructuring.

This was exemplified by Sunday's 11-4 defeat to Oxford City Stars at Oxpens Road.

The table-topping Stars are the new chiefs in this division and they ran riot for the third successive game, strutting to a sizeable 6-0 lead at the end of the first period.

Joshua Florey (6 minutes), a Kamil Kinkor brace (10 & 19), Dominic Hopkins (13), Joshua Oliver (13) and Theo Bundock (14) all scored as Oxford tore their pushover visitors to pieces.

There was a mini fight back from the Chieftains in the middle session with James Ayling (24) and Grant Bartlett (29) reducing arrears to just the four goals.

Unsurprisingly though Oxford had nothing to fear as Michael Whillock (35) and Florey (37) restored their six-goal cushion, making it 8-2 after 40 minutes.

Anthony Leone (42) pulled another back for Chelmsford but Florey hit



OUCH: Conor Redmond was given a bloody nose but it was all worth it as the Stars picked up their 16th win in 19 games. Picture: Stu Widdows

back two minutes later to complete his hat-trick.

Whillock made it a treble for himself too with 46th and 52nd minute strikes as the Stars struck double figures for the seventh time this season.

There was still time for Ayling to add Chieftains' fourth but, like so many other times this campaign, this was all too easy for Kenny Redmond's side.

The Stars have the weekend off and return to action with another home

fixture, this time against ninth-placed Cardiff Fire who have lost their last three matches.

The weekend off gives closest rivals Solent Devils and Bracknell Hornets a chance to close the gap at the top of the South2 table.

The Devils, on an 11-match winning streak, host Guildford while the Hornets, on a seven-match winning run themselves, travel to bottom half side Invicta.

Legend Green's 16 shirt retired

OXFORD City Stars have retired the No. 16 jersey in honour of club legend and fans' favourite Alan Green.

The shirt was retired ahead of the win over Chelmsford on Saturday and is now homed permanently on display at Oxpens Ice Rink.

No other player will wear the number again as a mark of respect for Green's contribution to the club.

Former Stars players Dan Prachar and Darryl Morvan, who also donned the No. 16 shirt, joined Green, who retired at the end of last season.

The former forward played more than 200 games in a career on the ice that spanned 27 years.

He also played at Slough, Swindon and Chelmsford. But it was at his home club Oxford where he really made his mark, winning the NIHL Division Two Championship in 2013 and the League and Cup double the following season.

Green, who still lives in Oxford, said: "Having your shirt retired is a great honour, especially at Oxpens, which means so much to me. I loved playing for Oxford and have so many wonderful memories

"I've been back a few times this season to support the boys.

"I'm very appreciative of all of the coaches and players I worked with at the Stars over the years and for the board for doing this for me and Dan and Darryl."

Didcot's promotion hopes dented in West country

Evo Stik round-up

DIDCOT Town's automatic promotion ambitions were handed a blow after succumbing to a 3-1 away defeat at Evo-Stik South West table toppers Taunton on Saturday.

A rough pitch made play difficult for both sides but clinical finishing edged the contest in the Somerset team's favour.

The Railwaymen were made to rue their missed opportunities when Pierce Mitchell was allowed time and space to fire past Leigh Bedwell on the half hour mark.

The tide swung even further in the home side's favour when Ollie Chamberlain slotted home 10 minutes later to double the host's advantage.

Taunton striker Dan Sullivan ensured the scoreline read 3-0 at the break after capitalising on Adam

Learoyd's poor pass out.

Didcot can take heart from a late rally that saw George Reid latch onto a cross from the returning Marlon Agyakwa to hook home with eight minutes remaining.

Despite the defeat ending Diddy's run of four straight wins and six clean sheets during an unbeaten stretch of eight games, the south Oxfordshire club remain in the play-offs.

Elsewhere, Kidlington defeated

AFC Totton 3-1 with the help of two goals from Duran Martin, while North Leigh lost 3-0 at home to Swindon Supermarine on Tuesday.

Goals from debutant Callum Parsons, Joe Shepherd and George Kellow were enough to see Supermarine ease to victory.

On Saturday, Didcot host the Swindon side, North Leigh travel to Shortwood United and Kidlington entertain Cinderford Town.

Debut to forget for midfielder as Thame rack up victory

Thame United

IT was derby day delight for Thame United who enjoyed a 2-0 win over rivals Aylesbury on Saturday.

Ten-man Thame proved too good for Aylesbury as the free scoring yet heavily inconsistent side bounced back from defeat to Hayes & Yeading United and successive postponed fixtures.

But United did it the hard way as midfielder Liam Tack was adjudged to have stamped on Moles defender Jordan Jenkins.

It was quite a debut for Tack, who survived just 14 minutes in his maiden game for his new club.

Lynton Goss had a header cleared off the line on 34 minutes but had more luck when he played a major part in Thame's opener three minutes before half time.

The striker, whose brother Aston moved from Aylesbury to join him at Thame earlier this month, got the better of the visiting defence and produced a deft cross that was slotted home by the unmarked and dangerous Dan West.

The points were wrapped up in the final stages in some style as Lynton Goss fired a 25-yard effort into the roof of the net on 83 minutes.

However, the south Oxfordshire side remain nine points off the play-offs after losing 3-0 at home to Hartley Wintney on Tuesday.

Thame are in 10th position in the Evo-Stik South East division on 39 points from 25 games and have two games in hand on the three teams above them.

They will look to bounce back on Saturday when they travel to second-placed Beaconsfield Town.



Lynton Goss added Thame United's second against Aylesbury with his 15th goal of the season. Picture: Marc Keinch

Oxfordshire football results

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 27 January
Oxford City 1-1 Bath City

Evo-Stik South Premier

Saturday 27 January
Hereford 3-0 Banbury United

Evo-Stik South East

Saturday 27 January
Thame United 2-0 Aylesbury

Tuesday 30 January

Thame United 0-3 Hartley Wintney

Evo-Stik South West

Saturday 27 January
AFC Totton 1-3 Kidlington
Bideford P-P North Leigh
Taunton Town 3-1 Didcot Town

Tuesday 30 January

North Leigh 0-3 Swindon Supermarine

Wednesday 31 January
Kidlington v Winchester City (match after going to press)

UHSport Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 27 January
Binfield 3-2 Abingdon United
Wantage Town 2-0 Highmoor Ibis

Tough first 30 minutes too much for Utd

Hellenic round-up

ABINGDON United returned from Berkshire on the receiving end of a 3-2 defeat in the Hellenic Premier on Saturday despite a valiant second half effort.

The Vale side came close to overturning Binfield's three goal lead, but the in-form home side proved too tough to break down.

The play-off hopefuls shot into the lead with three goals inside the first 30 minutes.

Thomas Butler pulled one back on 37 minutes and sparked hopes of a comeback when he bagged his second with 15 minutes left on the clock.

A straight red card for Joe Gritt three minutes later rattled the Berkshire side but they held on to leave Abingdon frustrated at their sloppy start and lingering in 14th in the table on 29 points.

Elsewhere, high-flyers Wantage Town ran out victorious at home to Highmoor Ibis to stay ahead of the chasing pack.

The re-signing of attacking midfielder Harvey Scholes seemed to inspire the team to a 2-0 win at Alfredian Park.

Goals from Stephen Robertson and Ryan Markham either side of the break ensured all three points and third position in the Hellenic Premier Division.

Abingdon next welcome Lydney Town to Northcourt while Wantage travel to bottom club Burnham on Saturday.

Oxford City Nomads will also return to action against Ascot United.

One step forward and two back

By George Welch

Oxford City

A SECOND half Matt Paterson penalty rescued a point for Oxford City who came from behind for a third consecutive 1-1 draw against Bath City at Court Place Farm.

Saturday's performance was an improvement on the last three games, which all ended in defeat and edged City back towards the relegation zone.

Boss Mark Jones made one change from the 4-1 loss at East Thurrock United the previous week but he would have been thinking 'here we go again' when the visitors took the lead on the stroke of half time.

Winger Ross Stearn thrashed home a Nat Jarvis cross two minutes into first half stoppage time to score at a decisive moment.

But the wind wasn't knocked out of City's sails and they came out fighting in the second period.

Paterson uncharacteristically blazed over a glorious chance from inside the box but the frontman had

the opportunity to make amends shortly afterwards.

The impressive Rob Sinclair was felled in the box and Paterson stepped up to coolly send the keeper the wrong way on 75 minutes for his 19th goal of the season in all competitions.

Zak McEachran went close in the dying stages but neither side could find a winner.

A draw failed to alleviate the pressure of relegation as the chasing pack moved to within five points of the Hoops.

"We have just got to keep going [because] it's hard to predict," Jones said. "There are times this year you think 'we're getting somewhere' and then you watch us play the next week and it looks like we've taken two steps back."

"You're standing there on the sideline and you think of ways to change things but, I've got to be honest, sometimes it's not particularly enjoyable."

"It [matchday] should be the most enjoyable day of the week. You do all your planning and when things don't go for you, you think 'crikey this is



Picture: Michael Allen

Zak McEachran went close in the final minutes but couldn't grab the winner

hard work'.

"But sometimes it's like that and it isn't easy - if it was then anybody could do it."

City travel to Concord Rangers (15th) on Saturday. Rangers sit two points above the Hoops in the National League South.

Ladies notch up first win since opener

OUFCW

A RESURGENT Oxford United Ladies halted a dismal six-match losing run with a 3-1 home win over Aston Villa Ladies.

The U's came from behind to claim their first WSL2 points since the draw against Brighton & Hove Albion at the end of October. It is also their first home win since their opening day victory over Sheffield.

But things could have started better for Andy Cook's side after finding themselves behind to a sixth minute Ebony Salmon goal.

United were back on level terms 10 minutes before the break as Taome Oliver flicked a backwards header into the net from a floated Dan Carlton free kick.

The home side picked up after their equaliser and, just after half time, took the lead in impressive style.



Kayleigh Hines scored a free kick

Kayleigh Hines did what she'd done twice already this season by curling a perfect 48th minute free kick into the top corner.

Oxford were in the mood and it only took them two minutes to grab a third, Carlton pouncing on a defensive mistake to rocket the ball into the bottom corner.

The Yellows remained composed as Villa looked for a response.

Ellis Hillman had to be alert to miraculously clear a shot off the line with her head and Demi Lambourne produced a number of fine saves to ensure her side kept the 3-1 lead.

Next up for Oxford is an FA Cup away fixture at Cardiff City on Sunday.

'We need to play more like Hereford' admits Ford

Banbury United

PURITANS boss Mike Ford admitted title favourites Hereford made his Banbury United side look 'second rate'.

United lost 3-0 at the Phoenix club in their biggest away game of the season in front of nearly 3,000 fans.

It was far too comfortable for the Bulls who never looked back after taking a 12th minute lead through Jamie Bird to extend their irresistible unbeaten league run to 14 matches.

The league's joint top scorer and former Didcot Town striker John Mills netted his 22nd of the season from

the spot to double the home side's advantage on 67 minutes.

Keyon Refell added the deserved third 10 minutes later with a superb half volley from the edge of the box.

The result never looked in much doubt following half time, and Ford admitted Hereford are leading by example.

Ford said: "They played like men maturely. They made life very difficult and kept their shape fantastically well. They made us look second rate."

"We did lots of things not very well."

I want to give them [Hereford] a bit of credit but if we want to aspire to be a side like Hereford are then we



Picture: www.herefordfc.co.uk

need to be something like what we played against.

"It's difficult to win any game never

mind, in my eyes, against the top side if you don't have enough players playing well - and we didn't."

U's in the spotlight with two TV games in a week

OUFC

TWO of Oxford United's SkyBet League One games will be shown live on Sky.

The first game to be televised will be United's trip to Portsmouth on Sunday, March 25, with the game at Fratton Park set for a 4pm kick off.

The U's will then be on TV for a second time in a week when they welcome Scunthorpe United to Grenoble Road on Good Friday, March 30. That game will now kick off at 12.45pm.

United's game at Portsmouth will be the first time the Yellows will have been televised this season.

Meanwhile, Oxford, currently

under the temporary stewardship of Derek Fazackerley, have had their match at league leaders Wigan Athletic rearranged.

The fixture was originally scheduled for January 27 but, due to the Latics' FA Cup run, will now kick off at 7.45pm on Tuesday, April 17.

It means three of United's last four games of the season will be

away, a run that also includes a trip to Doncaster Rovers and a visit to title-chasing Blackburn Rovers.

Keep an eye on the club's website full ticket and travel details.

■ Bristol Rovers have sold out their 1,800 allocation of away tickets ahead of their visit to the Kassam in Oxford's next home game on February 10.

Baptiste joins the United ranks out on loan

OUFC

YOUNG midfielder Shandon Baptiste has returned to Hampton and Richmond Borough for another loan spell.

The 19-year-old Grenada international joined the Beavers on an initial one-month loan at the end of December and the deal has now been extended to the end of March.

Baptiste, who made his U's debut against Stevenage in the Checktrade Trophy in August,

returned to the U's last week and was with the squad at Chelsea after his initial loan ended.

He has now re-joined the National League South side, where he joins fellow United players Sam Long and Manny Agboola, who are also there on loan.

Malachi Napa also played for them earlier in the campaign.

Agboola, Baptiste and Long all started in Hampton's 2-1 win at Chelmsford City on Saturday as they look to consolidate second spot and keep pace with leaders Dartford.

The latest dealings take the number of Oxford players out on a temporary basis to 10.

Kane Hemmings (Mansfield Town), James Roberts (Guiseley) and Fiacre Kelleher (Solihull Moors) were already out on loan.

Young goalkeeper Jack Stevens (Tamworth) and out of favour Charlie Raglan (Port Vale) also recently left the club on loan.

Meanwhile, Dejon Noel-Williams (Abingdon United) and Graham Bryan (Banbury United) are on work experience.




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Man City youngster is looking forward to learning at Oxford

By George Welch

ENGLAND youth international Ashley Smith-Brown admitted Oxford United's reputation for bringing through youngsters was enough to entice him to the Kassam Stadium.

The 21-year-old left back joined on loan this week from Premier League leaders Manchester City on a deal until the end of the season.

With veteran Brazilian Ricardinho the only other left footed left back at the club Smith-Brown, who follows fellow City youngster Isaac Buckley-Ricketts to the club this transfer window, will provide a valuable option at full back.

The youngster wants to use his experience to develop in ways former U's stars Kemar Roofs, Callum O'Dowda and John Lundstram have.

He said: "I'm looking forward to it. Oxford has a good reputation for helping young players like me learn and develop so it is a fantastic opportunity.

"There are a lot of really good players here and I can't wait to train for the first time and hopefully be involved at Charlton on Saturday."

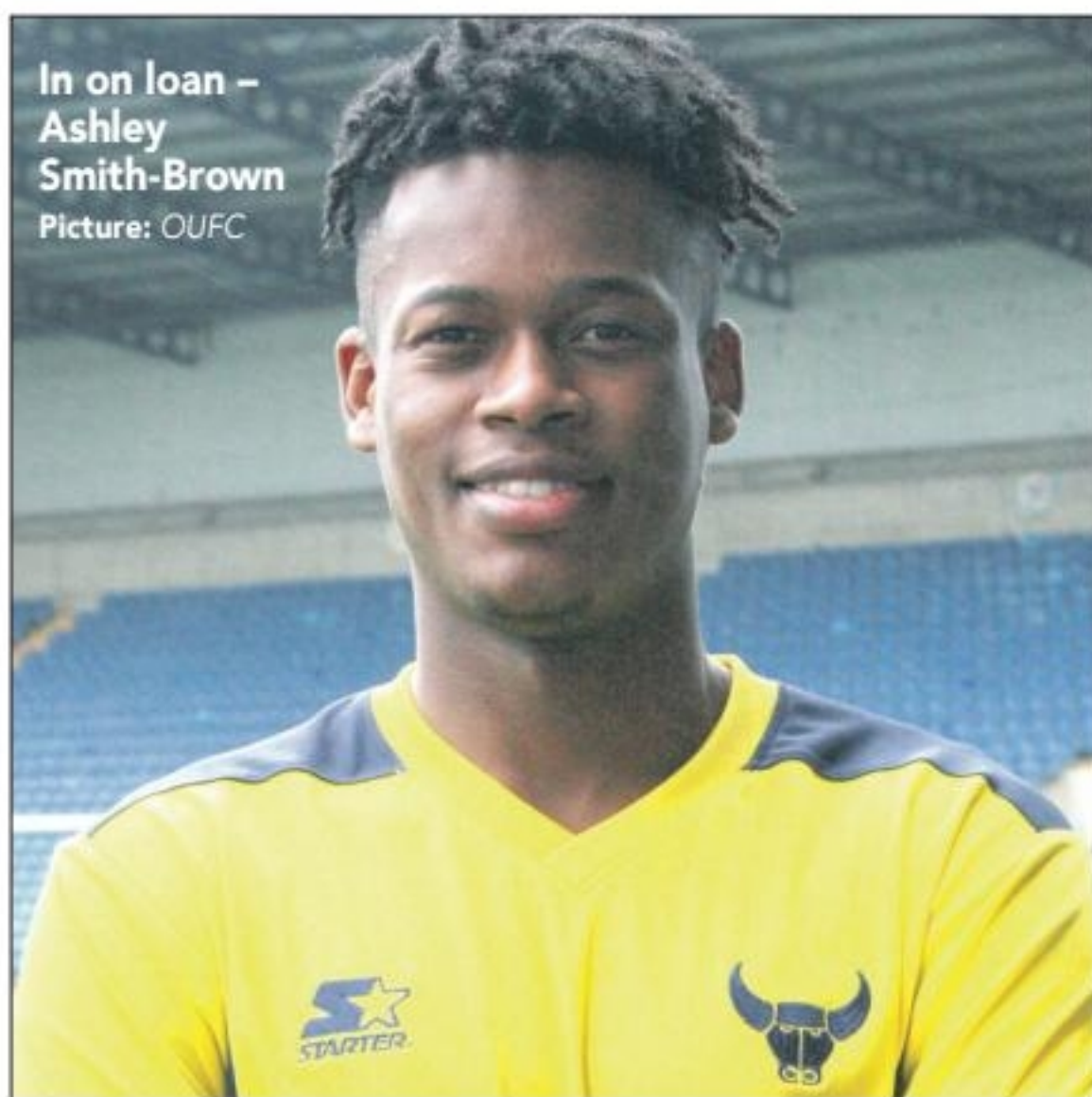
Capped at England level from the Under-16s through to the Under-20s, Smith-Brown has been on the club's radar for a while.

The Manchester man was the fourth and latest to join the club this January transfer window ahead of Wednesday's 11pm deadline, after we went to press.

This week has also seen out of favour centre back Charlie Raglan join League Two side Port Vale on loan until the end of the season and Spanish midfielder Xemi leave the club.

Xemi joined United last summer from Barcelona and made eight starts and six sub appearances for the U's,

**In on loan –
Ashley
Smith-Brown**
Picture: OUFC



scoring twice. But regular first team football has proven elusive and his contract was terminated on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old said: "It hasn't worked out here and I'm sad to be leaving because it is a fantastic club.

"But at the same time I want to be playing football and that means a new adventure for me elsewhere, which is exciting."

Interim boss Derek Fazakerley admitted a lack of manager has made this transfer window more challenging than normal.

The club has been tight-lipped over who is in the running to replace Pep Clotet, who was sacked last week.

Frank Lampard remains the book-

Names in the frame

Latest odds from SkyBet:

Frank Lampard 6/5
Paul Ince 5/2
David Unsworth 11/4
Derek Fazakerley 8/1
Simon Grayson 14/1
Michael Appleton 20/1

ies' favourite but, like former U's boss Michael Appleton, has publically distanced himself from reports saying he was in talks about the vacant manager's job.

United are back in league action on Saturday away to seventh place Charlton Athletic.

**Out on loan –
Charlie Raglan**
Picture: Steve Daniels



**Contract
terminated
– Xemi**
Picture: Steve Daniels



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